HISTORY OF KONKAN
(1630 - 1818)

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A THESIS SUBMITTED FOR THE DEGREE OF

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

IN

ARTS (HISTORY)

BY

V. G. KHOBREKAR

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UNDER THE GUIDENCE OF
DR. A.CHERIAN,
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I hereby state that the research work carried out by me for the Ph.D. thesis entitled "History of Konkan (1630-1818 A.D.)" is my original work. I further state that I have not been awarded any degree or diploma or other academic award, by this or any other University or body for the thesis being submitted by me.

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This thesis tends to the general advancement of knowledge as it is the first attempt in this century to present a connected account of the much neglected history of medieval and modern Konkan region comprising Thana, Kolaba and Ratnagiri Districts. This long felt need is fulfilled by this work. The results of the research include a study of new facts and a different approach to facts. The sources utilised are the vast mass of unpublished and published material and with the help of this, a fresh connected interpretation has been offered. Thus the much neglected study of medieval and modern period of this region, which remained to be investigated, now has been done through this work which certainly add considerably to our knowledge of history and life as it was lived in Konkan during a heroic age (1630 - 1818).

V.G.Khobrekar
(V.G.KHOBREKAR)
Signature of the Candidate

Certified that the above statements, made by the Candidate, are correct.

A. Cherian
DR. A. CHERIAN
Signature of the Guiding Teacher

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PREFACE

A comprehensive history of medieval and modern Konkan (1630 - 1818) is a desideratum. No attempt at writing an authentic and comprehensive history of Konkan region comprising Thana, Kolaba and Ratnagiri Districts of this period (1630-1818 A.D.) has been made so far. A century ago Rev. A.K. Nairne had written for the Gazetteer of Bombay Presidency a history of the Konkan from the earliest to 1884. Fleet, R.G. Bhandarkar, A.S. Altekar and M.M. Mirashi made substantial contributions to the Konkan history. However, as the study of these veterans was confined mainly to ancient period, medieval and modern periods remained to be investigated. A vast mass of source material on this topic has come to light during the last century. With the help of this unused material, the present writer has made an attempt to reconstruct the political history of Konkan together with Social and Economic aspects. The task is enormous and almost exhausting, but is of great interest at the same time.

The thesis is an attempt to give a detailed analysis of the important historical events closely connected with maritime activities of the European nations on the west coast of India and their impact on the natives' life.

The thesis is divided into ten chapters. Almost three-fourth of the thesis deal with the political history and the remaining two chapters highlight the Socio-Economic personality of the region. A line of argument pursued in this work is briefly indicated below.

The opening chapter "Early History of Konkan (from 1st century A.D. to 1630 A.D.) is an introduction necessary to the subject matter of the thesis. It starts with a brief description of the geographical situation and review the early history of the Konkan till 1630.

From pre-historic times the Konkan has had relations with lands beyond the Indian Ocean. The first century witnessed the rule of Satavahanas over the Konkan. Thereafter Maurayas, Vakatakas, Chalukyas, Rastrakutas, Silaharas and Yadavas ruled over the Konkan till the close of 13th century. (Thereafter the Muslims established their rule in the Deccan and in the Konkan after killing Ramchandrarao Yadav. The Bahamani kingdom was established in 1347 in the Deccan. Only in the middle of the 15th century Muhmud Gawan could make a serious attempt to conquer Rajas of Konkan. The Bahamani Empire broke up in 1536 and the territory of Konkan went to Nizamshahi of Ahmednagar and Adilshahi of Bijapur.) Adilshahi acquired North Konkan under the treaty of 1636 with the Emperor Shahjahan by which the territories of the kingdom of Ahmednagar were distributed between him and the Mughals. The Portuguese had obtained, in the first half of the 16th century itself, Bombay, Bassein, Salsette and Chaul in the North Konkan. Konkan was a bone of contention during the middle of the 17th century among the Mughals the Bijapur Kings, the Marathas, the Portuguese and the semi-independent Desais of the region.

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The second chapter opens with Shahaji's operations in Konkan. It is also full of Shivaji's activities in Konkan. Shivaji ran over the whole of Konkan, south of Kalyan and became master of it. He taught a lesson to the English factors at Rajapur. He foiled the attempt of Bijapur troops to recover the South Konkan by defeating them. In 1670 Shivaji sent a large fleet up the coast which captured the Portuguese ships. Shivaji celebrated his coronation at Raigad in June 1674, by becoming a king of the sea and Konkan. Lastly how Shivaji repaired old forts and built new forts on the coast by providing work to the Konkanis is elaborated in this chapter.

The third chapter begins with the Mughal offensive in Konkan. It also deals with conflict between the Marathas and the Mughals leading to Sambhaji's tragic end. Aurangzeb was in the Deccan to annihilate the Marathas. The period of eighteen years from 1689 to 1707, was one of utmost trial for the Marathas. Aurangzeb ordered his officers to occupy Konkan by driving out the Marathas. Various battles fought by the Marathas against the Mughals in Konkan are described. Finally the Konkan region was included in the imperial dominions in 1693. How the Mughal officer Matabarkhan established himself at Kalyan and lastly how he reconciled with the Marathas is narrated in this chapter.

The fourth chapter deals with the Portuguese activities against the Marathas from 1658 to 1732. The Portuguese came int conflict with Shivaji. Thereafter Sambhaji opened a war front against the Portuguese. Several places belonging to the Portuguese between Bassein and Daman were attacked and destroyed. But their tyranical behaviour with their Hindu subjects continued unabated. Finally how the Portuguese became helpless before Kanhoji Angre and thereafter before Bajirao I is explained in this chapter.

The fifth chapter is full of Maratha doings against the Sidi of Janjira. The Marathas succeeded in capturing the places and the forts in the north Konkan which were previously captured by the Sidi. Kanhoji Angre made Kolaba the principal place of arms of the Maratha fleet. Lastly, the Marathas broke the power of the Sidi and became the chief power of the whole of Konkan.

In chapter six the expulsion of the Portuguese and fall of Angre is explained. To wipe out the Portuguese menace in Konkan the Marathas planned an attack on Bassein, Tarapur, Mahim and on all other places belonging to the Portuguese in Konkan. The Marathas captured all the places held by the Portuguese in Konkan by expelling them. The second part of the chapter deals with the rise and fall of the Angre's power in Konkan. Kanhoji Angre became the chief power of the sea. The English at Bombay watched Angre's activities with great anxiety. The Angre had disputes in his family and was in conflict with the Portuguese, the Sidi and the Peshwa. The Peshwa concluded agreement with the English for joint action against the Angre. The English - Peshwa axis destroyed Angre's mighty navy and power.

Chapter seven is concerned with the contest for the hegemony of Konkan between the Marathas and the East India Company. The relations between the Peshwa and the English became less and less cordial. After the Panipat disaster the English started competing with the Marathas for the political leadership of India. In Konkan the Marathas had operations against Janjira. The British had expeditions against Malwan, Rairee forts. The British army advanced from Gujarat to Konkan. Bassein was surrendered to the British. The British army marched from Konkan up to the Ghats to threaten the Poona Government. The British activities on the western coast to put down the piracy to protect commerce are detailed in their Diaries, which are preserved in the Bombay Archives. They are made use of by the author.

Chapter eight deals with the activities of the English leading to the conquest of Konkan by them. Yeshwantrao Holkar's arrival in Poona created terror in the heart of Peshwa Bajirao II who fled to Mahad in Konkan and then to Bassein and concluded the subsidiary treaty with the English by which the Peshwa bartered away the Maratha independence. British got possession of all the Kolhapur territory in

Konkan. Sawantwadi accepted the sovereignty of the English. In 1817, the Peshwa surrendered the territory of the North Konkan to the British. Konkan came under the British rule in 1818.

The Nineth chapter tells us about the Social life in Konkan. Exhaustive treatment is given to the social organisation which includes religion, caste system and village communities. Political institutions, such as judicial system, role of Panchayats, status of the depressed classes including women are explained. Patronage was extended to literature, architecture and painting by the rulers of the region. Information regarding dress of men and women, their food, dwellings and education is also given. Celebrations of different festivals, weddings, religious entertainments like Bhajans, Gondhal, fairs, Dahicalas etc., during the period are described.

In the last chapter an attempt is made to narrate agriculture, crops, survey and assessment of land, collection of revenue, through land administration and land tenures such as Khoti etc.

I wish to acknowledge my sincere gratitude towards my research guide Dr. A. Cherian, Professor and head of History Department, Wilson College, Bombay.

I am grateful to Shri Setu Madhavrao Pagdi and Dr. P.M. Joshi for their guidance in this project whenever required. I owe a heavy burden of debt to Dr. P.M. Joshi, for his constant encouragement and help in this work.

I would be failing in my duty, if I do not express my sense of gratitude towards Dr.S.D.Karnik, Director and Shri M.R.Prabhu, Asst. Director, Western Regional Centre, Indian Council of Social Science Research,Bombay for the help they extended to me to put this work in proper shape.

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VGKhobrekar
(V.G.KHOBREKAR)

Bombay
27 September 1985

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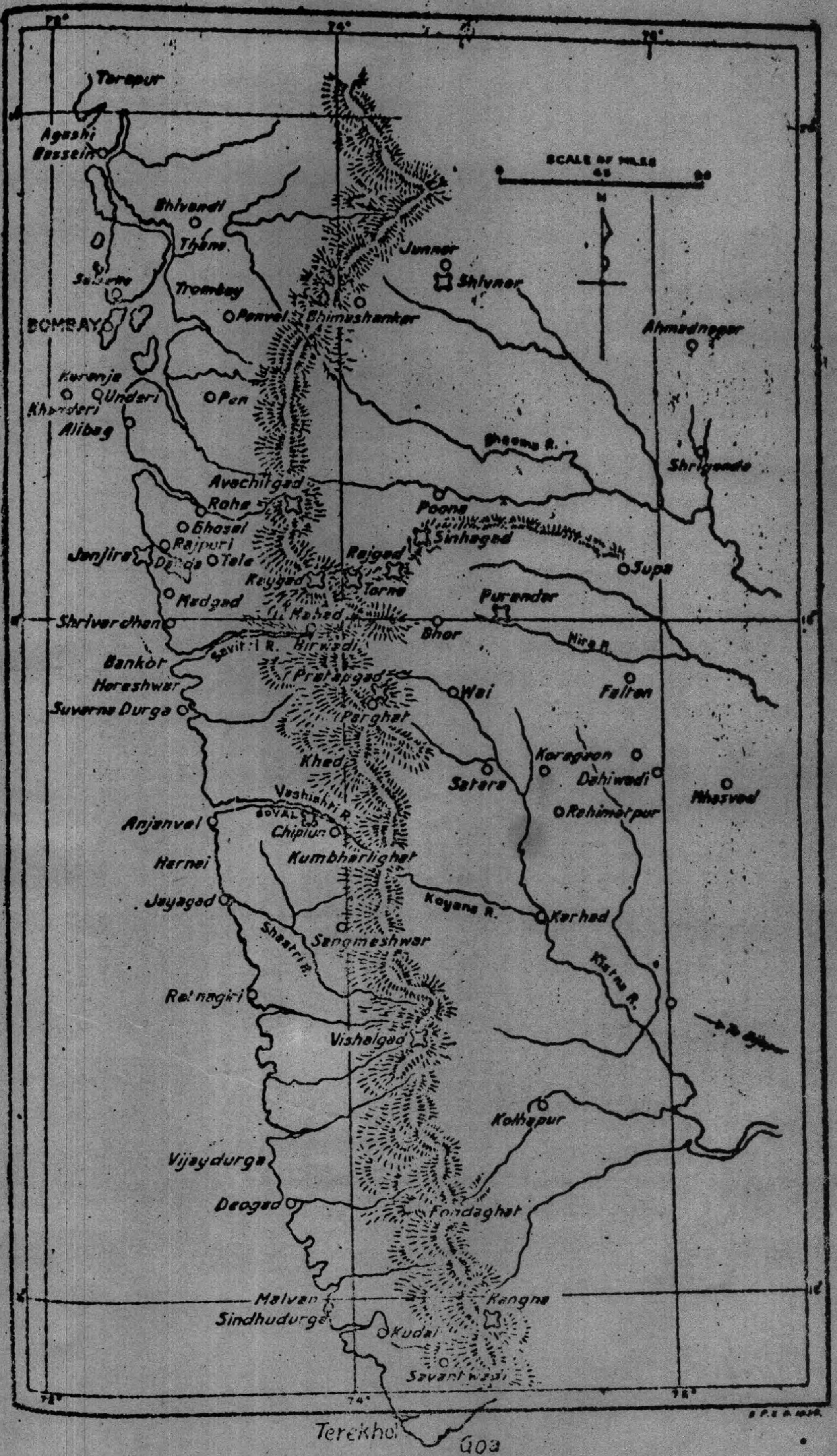
ABBREVIATIONS

FROM MANUSCRIPT RECORDS :-

H.D.	Home Department, Bombay.
P.D.	Political Department, Bombay.
Pub.D.	Public Department, Bombay.
Sec. & P.D.	Secret and Political Department, Bombay.
S.P.R.	Selected Papers for further Research, Poona.

FOR PRINTED WORKS :

B.I.S.M.	Bharat Itihas Samshodhak Mandal Quarterly.
Briggs-Ferishta	History of the Rise of the Mohomedan Power by Mohomed Kasim Ferishta. Tr. Briggs.
Lekh Sangraha	Aitihasik Lekh Sangraha by V.V.Khare.
M.I.S.	Marathyanchya Itihasachi Sadhane by V.K.Rajwade.
N.H.M.	New History of the Marathas by G.S.Sardesai.
Peshwa Roznishi	Selections from the Satara Raja's and Peshwa Diaries by C.G.Vad.
P.R.C.	Poona Residency Correspondence Gen. Eds. - Sir Jadunath Sarkar and G.S.Sardesai.
S.P.D.	Selections from the Peshwa Daftar Ed. by G.S.Sardesai.


72°
74°
76°
Tarapur
Agashi
Bassein
Bhivandi
Thana
Salsette
Trombay
BOMBAY
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Sinhagad
Janjira
Danda
Tala
Rajgad
Raygad
Torna
Supa
Madgad
Mahad
Purandar
Shrivardhan
Bhor
Savitri R.
Birwadi
Nira R.
Bankot
Pratapgad
Wai
Faltan
Hareshwar
Suvarna Durga
Parghat
Khed
Koregaon
Satara
Dahiwadi
Mhasvad
Vashishti R.
GOVAL
Anjanvel
Chiplun
Rahimatpur
Kumbharlighat
Harnai
Jayagad
Koyana R.
Karhad
Shastri R.
Sangameshwar
Kistna R.
Ratnagiri
To Bijapur
Vishalgad
Kolhapur
Vijaydurga
Deogad
Fondaghat
Malvan
Rangna
Sindhudurga
Kudal
Savantwadi
Terekhol
Goa

MAP OF KONKAN

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CHAPTER I : INTRODUCTION

EARLY HISTORY OF KONKAN

(From 1st Century A.D. to 1630 A.D.)

The Land of Konkan : It's features and divisions :

The Konkan proper or Bombay Konkan as it is known to-day, comprising the western Coastal Strip of Maharashtra, stretches a distance of about 360 miles from the latitude of Daman in the north to that of Terekhol, on the Goa frontier, on the south. Presently it is divided into four districts : Thana, Raigad, Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg.

The districts of Thana and Raigad formed the stretch popularly known as North Konkan (18 N - 20 25). It is separated from South Konkan by the Bankot Creek. The districts of Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg make what we call South Konkan (16 20 N - 18 N). This whole strip of Konkan lies between 72.8 and 73.8 east longitude.

Konkan is sandwitched between the Arabian sea on the West side and the steep mountain wall of the Western Ghats on the East. It combines a climate on the hills and the sea shore with extreme humidity and heavy rains. In North Konkan the rivers Vaitarna, Surya and the Ulhas flow draining northwards to meet the Bassein Creek. The land of North Konkan become more hilly along the coast strip but more open in the central interior which is drained by the four important tributaries of Savitri. These rivers are short and run transversely. There are rivulets, streams which rise before they drained themselves into the Arabian sea. They are in flood as long as rain last and dry out soon after the monsoon is over. The soil is far from fertile and is only fit for paddy cultivation, in flat patches and for rugi, Varai and similar millets on the hill side. The mountain sides are covered with evergreen vegetation which gives Konkan a seanic beauty and endows it with its rich cultural wealth. The whole of the Konkan strip is highly forested and the forests were much more dense during the medieval period than today which make the difficult task of bringing this area under the control of powers based on the Deccan plateau. The western ghats along their entire length are pierced by numberless passes more or less difficult to cross. These passes shorten the journey from any part of the Konkan place to place from the high lands across the mountain barrier.

Geographically, Konkan occupies a very stratigic position from where the Marathas were able to move into Northern and Southern parts of the Deccan, without much interruption. Konkan, North and South, were the nerve Centers of the movements of Maratha army in the seventeenth century. Shivaji in his time effectively made use of Konkan to his best advantage. His possession of Konkan remained unchallenged till his death in 1680 A.D. Therefore, the Maratha statesmen always tried to retain control of the Konkan. After the defeat of Angre Navy in 1756 A.D. the British gradually tried to get control of Konkan from the Marathas which they did before they brought the whole of India under their control.

Let us now survey the major events in the history of the Konkan from 1st century A.D. to 1630 A.D. till the birth of Shivaji the great.

From the days of the geographer Ptolemy (135-150 A.D.) Konkan was known to the Greeks, who had supplied information to him.[1] Epigraphic records at Kanheri of Sivasi Satkarni of the Satavahana Dynasty shows that he held Konkan between 138 to 145 A.D.[2] After the downfall of the Satavahanas a Maurya dynasty ruled in Konkan as late as seventh century A.D. though it is not known whether this had any connection with the Imperial Maurya family line.[3] Thereafter, the Vakatakas held sway over Konkan before the rise of the Chalukyas. During the latter half of the eighth century the Silaharas rose to power in Konkan and rule of the branches of this family continued upto 13th century with only temporary interruptions. A.S. Altekar says that three Silahara houses ruled in Western India.[1] The oldest of these, ruled over Southern Konkan from 765 A.D. to 920 A.D. Silaharas of Northern Konkan popularly known as Silaharas of Thana rose to prominence at about 800 A.D. and ruled for a period of four centuries. All along, Silaharas were feudataries in status. They owed their allegiance first to the Rashtrakutas, then to Chalukyas as well as Kadambas and finally to the Yadavas of Devgiri.[2]

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[1] Mujumdar (Ed.,) Mc Crindle's Ancient India as described by PTOLEMY, pp. 45-46.

[2] Maharashtra State Gazetteers - History, Part I, Ancient period, p. 97.

[3] Gokhale, Buddism in Maharashtra : A History, p. 11.

The Rashtrakuta emperor Govinda III bestowed a rulership of Northern Konkan on a king named Kapardi, founder of the Silaharas of Thana (800 to 825 A.D.[3]). In the reign of Cittaraja (1025 to 1040) its supremacy began to be threatened by the Kadambas of Goa. The Kadamba king Sastadeva II claims to have conquered both the southern and northern Konkan.[4] It appears that Cittaraja succeeded in retaining Northern Konkan because

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1. Altekar, "Shilaharas of Western India", Indian Culture, Vol. II, No. 3, p. 393.

2. Maharashtra State Gazetteers - Kolaba District, p. 65.

3. Telang, A New Silara Copper Plate Grant, Indian Antiquary, Vol. IX, February 1880, p. 39.

4. Moraes, Kadambakula, p. 192.

he accepted Kadamba supremacy. The Kadamba ruler Jayakesin II (1125 A.D. to 1147 A.D.) had styled himself as the lord of Southern as well as Northern Konkan.[1] The last Silahara ruler Someshwara (1240 to 1265 A.D.) was defeated and killed by the Yadava ruler Mahadeo (1260 to 1272 A.D.). Thereafter Konkan was annexed to the territories of Yadavas.[2] The Viceroys of the Yadavas of Devgiri ruled over the Deccan including Konkan from the days of Singhana (1200 to 1247 A.D.) down to Ramchandra or Ramdeva (1271 to 1310 A.D.) and his son Singhana (1311 to 1313 A.D.[3]).

The Yadavas of Devgiri ruled over the whole of the Deccan including Konkan till the close of 13th century. In 1296 A.D. Alauddin Khilji of Delhi dashed across the Vindyas and swooped on Ramdeo, the Yadava ruler of Devgiri and forced him to submit. Malik Kafur made Devgiri the centre of Khalji expansion and latter of the Tughluq domination in the South. The era of Khalji imperialism was followed by the rule of the Tughluqs. Muhammad bin Tughluq attempted to give a suitable

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1. Moraes, op. cit., p. 192.

2. Yadava Governor was ruling over the Kingdom of Silaharas. See Rev. J. STEVENSON, Sahyadri Inscriptions (Jan. 1854); the Journal of the Bombay Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, (old Series), Vol. V, pp. 177-78.

3. Maharashtra State Gazetteer - Kolaba District, p. 71.

administration to the Deccan and appointed able officers to look after it. But during the second half of his reign, his officers in the Deccan, the Omiran-i-Sadah, rose in open rebellion against the central authority, and founded the Bahmani Kingdom in 1347 A.D.[1] Alauddin Bahman Shah had laid the foundation of the Kingdom with the support of the Deccani and foreign nobles alike. In a short time, writes Ferishta, the territory from the river Bhima to the vicinity of the fort Adoni and from the port of Chaul to the city of Bidar, was brought under his authority.[2] The rulers of the Bahamani dynasty sought moral and material help from the foreigners who began to flow into the Deccan from the coast round the Persian Gulf and from Iran, Iraq and Arabia. So in the Bahamani Court there were two factions. The foreign group was represented by the Afagnis, who were mainly Iranians. The other faction was represented by the Deccanis who had come from Northern India. The latter had married native women, raised families of mixed descent, and like the early Aryans had begun to look upon the country as their own, by virtue of their permanent settlement in the Deccan and association with its soil.[3]

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1. Briggs - Ferishta, Vol. II, p. 179.
2. Ibid., pp. 179-180.
3. Sherwani, The Bahmanis of the Deccan, pp. 113-114.

In 1357 Alauddin Bahaman Shah divided his Kingdom into four provinces, the north-west province is described as comprehending Chaul, Junnar, Daulatabad, Bid and Paithan.[1] Muhammad II who ruled from 1378 A.D. to 1397 A.D. was an enlightened ruler. When his kingdom was ravaged by famine, he made prompt and efficient arrangement for the transport of grain from Gujarat and Malwa among muslims only at cheap rates. He established orphanages in various centres in the kingdom, two of which were at the Konkan ports of Chaul and Dabhol.[2] In 1436 A.D. an army was sent with instructions to reduce the tract of country along the sea shore called Konkan, the Chief of Raigad was made tributory.[3]

In the reign of Alauddin Ahmed who succeeded his father the conflict between the Deccanis and the Foreigners became more acute than ever. The foreigners influenced the Sultan who ordered that on all ceremonial occasions foreigners should appear on his right and the Deccanis on his left. This partiality shown by the Sultan enraged the Deccanis against their rivals, culminating in the massacre of large number of them.[4]

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1. Briggs - Ferishta, Vol. II, p. 182.
2. P.M. Joshi, "The Bahmani Kingdom" in History and Culture of the Indian People, Vol. VI, p. 254.
3. Briggs - Ferishta, Vol. II, pp. 261-262.
4. Sherwani, The Bahamanis of the Deccan, pp. 233-235.

During the reign of Bahamani king Ahmed Shah (1422 A.D. to 1429 A.D.), Western Maharashtra especially Konkan was the real cradle of native independence. Marco Polo alludes to the rich trade of Konkan infinely dressed leather, cotton goods, gold and silver though the sea was infested with pirates. Bahmani boats were occassionally put out to the sea from Dabhol and Chaul to bring commodities to the kingdom from diverse maritime centres.

In 1430 A.D. Khalaf Hasan Basri (Malik-ut-Tujiar) was ordered by Sultan Ahmed Shah Bahamani I to subdue the coast. But the territory round Mahim was disputed by the Sultan of Gujarat. Conflict was however, averted by the intervention of some holy men on either side.[1] Konkan was subjected from time to time, but, nobody could consolidate their rule in Konkan.[2]

In 1436 Hindu Raja of Sonekhair was defeated by the Bahamani forces.[3] Eleven years later Malik-ut-Tujjar was again sent to the Konkan (1453) with a plan to reduce to subjection all the fortresses along with the sea coast. Malik-ul-Tujjar was with 7,000 Deccany infantry and 3,000 Arabian cavalry, besides his own division. He secured the fort near the city of Junnar as his abode and from there he sent detachments at different times into Konkan and reduced several Rajas to subjection. At length he personally attacked the country of Shirke and obliged him to surrender and deliver himself and his family into his hands.[1] He asked the Shirke either to embrace Islam or death by the sword. Thereupon Shirke pointed out that there existed between him and Raja of Khelna (Vishalgad), Shri Shankar Ray, a family jealousy. Therefore he should be compelled to embrace Islam. He offered his active help in reducing the Khelna Raja into submission. Malik-Ut-Tujjar replied that he heard the road to the Shankar Ray's country was woody and full of different passes, to which Shirke assured him his personal guidance and help in this expedition.[2] Accordingly Malik-Ut-Tujjar depending upon the promises of the Raja, in the year 1453 began his march towards Khelna, but he was deserted at the outset by the Deccanis and Abyssinian officers.

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[1] Briggs - Ferishta, Vol. II, p. 368; Sherwani, Mahamud Gawan, p. 41; Sharma, Maratha History, (Re-examined), p. 34.

[2] Briggs - Ferishta, Vol. II, p. 255.

[3] Ishwari Prasad, Medieval India, p. 383.

" Raje Shirke agreeing to his promise, during the first two days, conducted the army along a broad road, so that the general praised his zeal and fidelity; but on the third day he led them by the paths so intricate through the awful view of the mountains where the sun never enlivened with his splendour the valleys; nor had providence designed

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1. Briggs - Ferishta, Vol. II, p. 269.
2. Ibid., p. 270.

that it should penetrate their depths. Death dwelt in the waters and poison impregnated the breeze. After winding, weary and alramed, through these dreadful labyrinths the army entered a darker forest, a passage through which was difficult even to the winds of heaven. It was bounded on three sides by mountains, whose heads towered above the clouds, and on the other side was an inlet of the ocean, so that there was no path by which to advance, nor road for retreat but by which they had entered ".[1]

" Malik-Ut-Tujjar at this crisis fell ill of a bloody flux, so that he could not attend to the regularity of the line of march or give orders for the disposition of his troops who, being excessively fatigued about nightfall flung themselves down to rest whereever they could find room, for there was no spot which admitted of two tents being pitched near each other. While the troops were thus in disorder, Shirke, their treacherous guide informed Shankar Ray that he had accomplished as decided by them. The Ray joined the Shirke and both of them with their force, about midnight attacked the Mussalmans from all sides who were asleep due to excessive exertions. In this helpless state,nearly 7,000 soldiers of the faithful were put to death, like sheep, with knives and daggers; the wind blowing violently, the rustling of the trees prevented the troops from hearing the cries of their

---

1. Briggs - Ferishta, Vol. II, pp. 271-272;
   Sharma, Maratha History (Re-examined),p. 36.

fellow-suffers. Among these was Mullik-oot-Toojar who fell with 500 noble syuds of Madina, Kurbulla and Nujuf as also some Deccany and Abeyssinian Officers, together with about 2,000 of their adherents, who had remained with their general. Before day-light, the Ray, having completed his bloody work retired with his people from the forest ".[1] This was a heroic episode for the chieftains of Konkan. Like Shirke and Ray in Konkan there were many hard nuts to crack. Inspite of this Mahmud Gawan the Chief Minister of Bahmani Kingdom, increased the Bahmani dominions to an extent never reached before. One of the tasks to which he addressed himself was to rehabilitate the prestige of the Sultans sheltered in western Maharashtra and Konkan by the disastrous Khelna expedition of Malik-ut-Tajjar.

The Maratha Rajas of Khelna and Sangameshwar, emboldened by their recent trumph continued their relentless activities in Konkan. They particularly meddled with the sea-trade making common cause with the pirates of the west Coast. The Raja of Sangmeshwar alone, according to Gawan, sent 130 ships to rob the Mecca pilgrims annually, and many thousands of Muslims were sacrificed at the altar of the greed of these people.[2] Therefore Gawan himself undertook Konkan expedition which proved the most hazardous[3]. Ahmad II was succeeded by his

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1. Briggs - *Ferishta*, Vol. II, pp. 270-271.

2. Sherwani, *Mahmud Gawan*, p. 128.

3. *Ibid*., pp. 129-133; H.K. Sherwani, "Khwaja-i-Jahan Mahmud Gawan's campaigns in the Maharashtra". *Proceedings of the Indian History Congress*, Part II 1935, pp. 28-41.

son Alauddin Humayun Shah on 7th May 1438 A.D. He too like his predecessor bestowed high honours on the Foreigners and appointed Mahmud Gawan as Prime Minister of the kingdom, giving him full control over the military affairs.[1] The advent of Gawan in the politics of the Deccan gave a new shape to the longstanding party strife which entered its last phase. During the period of Gawan's ministry, the frontiers of the kingdom extended from Sea to Sea; the Konkan was occupied, the Godavari and the Krishna Doab were annexed; expeditions were led into the very heart of Orissa and Kanchi. As the boundaries of the Bahmani kingdom now touched the Bay of Bengal in the East and Arabian sea in the West, Gawan resolved to introduce some administrative reforms. He divided the kingdom into eight Sar-i-lashkarship or provinces of equal size.[2] He also revolutionarised the system of military administration.

Early 1469 (874 H.) Mahmud Gawan marched into Konkan by committing the passes to the protection of ten thousand infantry. He waited for five months before the Khelna without reducing it but by stratagems and gifts of money he obtained possession of the fortress of Khelna, which had never till then been in the hands of the Mussalmans.[3]

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[1] Maharashtra State Gazetteers, History, Part II, Mediaeval Period, p. 58.

[2] Ibid., pp. 60-61.

[3] Briggs - Ferishta, Vol. II, pp. 483-484.

Gawan returned to the capital only after an arduous campaign lasting three years. After Gawan came the deluge. The Bahmani empire split up into five kingdoms as follows : (1) Imadshahi of Berar in 1484 (2) The Adilshahi of Bijapur in 1489 (3) The Nizamshahi of Ahmadnagar in 1490 (4) The Qutbshahi of Golkonda in 1518 and (5) The Barid Shahi of Bidar in 1526.

Of the five kingdoms referred to above, the Imadshahi was absorbed by Ahmadnagar in 1574 and the Baridshahi by Bijapur in 1609. From the point of view of Konkan history, the Nizamshahi and the Adilshahi which played important role in the seventeenth century must engage most of our immediate attention.

By the close of 15th century Gujarat extended its sway over the Konkan coast. In 1495 the Konkan was divided by Mohammed Beganda of Gujarat into five districts.[1] He also tried to bring Bombay and Bassein under his control by creating hostility against these places. He established a garrison at Nagothana and sent an army to Chaul.[2] At this time according to Mirat-i-Ahmadi, Daman, Bassein and Bombay were included within the Gujarat kingdom. Gujarat king was collecting revenue from Agasi, Danda, Sorab (probably Sopara), Bassein, Bhiwandi, Kalyan, Bombay and Panvel. The early Portuguese accounts as well as the account of the Italian traveller Varthema mentions that a large area of the north Konkan coast was under Gujarat. But according to

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[1] Briggs - Ferishta, Vol. II, pp. 191-192.

[2] Bird, Mirat-i-Ahmadi, p. 214.

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Duart Borbosa, a Factor was appointed at Chaul by the Portuguese in 1715.[1] Varthema also mentions that there was a Gujarat Governor at Nagothana and that in 1540 there were Gujarat Commandants of the hill forts of Karnala in Panvel and Sakhasi in Pen.[2]

During the 16th century the Portuguese secured firm footing on the Western Coast especially in the districts of Colaba and Thana. They extended their authority over Goa, Diu and Daman. In the beginning they contended themselves with establishing factories, but the factories were soon turned into fortresses and open contests took place for maintaining supremacy on the sea. The Portuguese Government appointed Don Franciso de Almeida as the political head of the Portuguese dominions in the east in 1505. He came in contact with the Sultans of Ahmednagar and Bijapur. Early in January 1508 the Portuguese receivd a heavy blow at Chaul at the hands of Amir Hassan the admiral of the king of Egypt, and Malik Ayaz, the Commander of the Gujarati fleet.

The port of Chaul had a Portuguese settlement on the coast but the city and its adjacent villages remained in the possession of the Nizamshahi Kings till the year 1625 A.D. and served as one of the biggest commercial industrial centres of the Nizamshahi kingdom, during the 16th and 17th centuries of the christian era.[3]

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[1] Radheshyam, The Kingdom of Ahmadnagar, p. 133.

[2] A.K. Nairne, History of the Konkan, p. 37.

[3] Da Cunha, History and Antiquities of Chaul and Bassein, p. 34.

The Portuguese activities in the Indian waters started on the arrival of Vasco De Gama at Calicut in 1498. The Portuguese had their trips to India every year in the name of trade. The two Portuguese travellers Barbosa and Pires who arrived in the Konkan region early in the 16th century give us valuable insight into the pattern of the coastal commerce. Barbosa mentions the visits of merchants of Chaul and Dabhol to Diu by Sea.[1] The merchants of Chaul purchased fine muslins, which they carried to Arabia and Persia for making turbans.[2] At the turn of 16th century Dabhol, Chaul, Cambay and Diu were four important ports engaged in the coastal traffic. In 1508 Almedia, a Portuguese Captain attacked and occupied the Adilshahi port of Dabhol on 30th December.[3] Albuquerque, the successor of Almeida was more aggressive than his predecessor. He captured Goa on 17th February 1510[4] from the Adilshahi king. Since then all efforts made by Adilshahi kings failed to dislodge the Portuguese from Goa. With the loss of Goa the major portion of the sea-borne trade passed into the hands of the Portuguese. Goa was made capital of their eastern empire by the Portuguese. Indeed the trade of the Konkan region came to be dominated by Goa

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1. Barbosa, The Book of Durate Barbosa, I, p. 129.
2. Ibid., p. 161.
3. Ibid., p. 166.
4. Varma, History of Bijapur, p. 55.

and soon it became the chief port of the region. The Portuguess secured supplies from the fort of Chaul. In 1516 the Portuguese governor Dom-Jo-Demonoy attacked Mahim fort by entering Bandra creek and defeated the commandant of the fort. In the same year, Portuguese established a factory at Chaul and built a fort after securing the permission of Burhan Nizamshah.[1] The Portuguese governor entered into a treaty with Burhan Nizamshah and immediately commenced building the fort on the northern side of the creek about half a league to the south, for it was the most convenient site for warlike purposes.[2] Among the stipulation of the treaty was the one concerning the importation of horses for the use of Burhan Nizamshah who agreed to assist the Portuguese against the Gujaratis.[3] Gujarat governor Mallik Biaz took strong objection for the unauthorised construction but inspite of the governor's protests the Portuguese carried out the work. Thereupon in order to stop the building of the fort the governor of Diu, sent a fleet against the Portuguese but it was defeated and therefore he had to withdraw it.[4] The Portuguese could now sail to Bombay freely. In 1521, the Portuguese captured Chaul belonging to the Gujarati Sultan.[5]

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[1] Radheshyam, op.cit., p. 334.

[2] Da Cunha, op.cit., pp. 35-36.

[3] Ibid., p. 36 - footnote.

[4] Ibid., pp. 36-37.

[5] Danvers, Portuguese in India, Vol. I, p. 400.

In 1531, Diu was sacked by the Portuguese. In 1532, the Portuguese burnt Daman. All the towns from Bassein to Tarapur on the Konkan coast were subjected to indiscriminate plunder and arson.[1] They also captured Bassein in 1535.[2] Thus they controlled the important ports in Konkan. This enabled them to control the Sea-trade. In 1558 the Portuguese seized Daman[3] and destroyed the Indian section of Chaul. In 1556 the Portuguese Governor Francisco Barreto, took Asheri and Manora fortresses and in 1559 the Portuguese Viceroy Constatine de Braganza, captured the fort of Daman. In 1569 the Portuguese fleet ransacked the coast from Cochin to Cambay.[4]

By about 1580, the Portuguese were ruling Diu, Daman, the Island of Bombay, Bassein and Chaul in North Konkan, Goa Island, Salsette and Bardoz on the western coast.[5]

The Portuguese established their mastery over the Indian Ocean in the 16th century and they prohibited the ships of other nations from plying in it without Portuguese permit.[6] Later when the Dutch and the British came to India, their conflicts with the Portuguese gradually diminished the Portuguese maritime power. Even

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1. Danvers, op.cit., I, pp. 401-402.
2. Ibid., p. 18.
3. Commissariat, History of Gujarat, Vol. I, p. 462.
4. Danvers, op.cit., I, p. 509.
5. Parvate, Portuguese Mahratta Relations, p. 1.
6. Dastak i.e. permit, was called Cartez, by the Portuguese.

so, during the regime of the Mughals, Adilshah, the Raja of Bednur, and also Shivaji the great and Sambhaji, it was customary for them to take Portuguese permits (cartazes) for sailing ships in the Indian Ocean.[1]

An understanding of the Portuguese administration in their home country in India from 1581 to 1652 A.D. is desirable. In 1581 king Philip II of Spain became the king of Portugal assuming the name as king Philip I. During his regime Don Franscisco Mascarenhas, Count of Santa cruz was selected to the post of Viceroy of Portuguese India. He came to Goa on 16th September 1581 and resumed the charge of his post. The Viceroys were appointed for three years only. So in 1584 Duarte de Menezes succeeded him. He died in 1588. Thereafter Manoel de Souza Coutinho became the Viceroy and Mathias de Albuqurque succeeded him in May 1591. Dom Francisco de Gama received a charge of the post of Viceroy from Mathias de Albuqurque in 1597 May. Gama was succeeded by Ayres de Saldana in May 1600. Dom Martin Affanso de Castro became the Viceroy in 1604. But unfortunately died after $2\frac{1}{2}$ years on 6th October 1606. So Archbishop of Goa Dom F. Alexius de Menazes was asked to assume the charge of the Governors' post. Dom Joao Pereira Frojas Conde de Feyra was posted as the Viceroy in 1609. He left for India to assume the charge of the post but in the journey he died on 15 May. After temporary arrangement Ruy Laurenzo de Tavora became the Viceroy on 1st September 1609. He served as a Viceroy for three years and handed over the charge of the post to Dom Hierome de Azavedo on 24th December 1612. He remained in the post till the end of 1617.[1] He was relieved by Dom Joas Countinho, Coude de Redonda who died on 10th November 1619 in Goa. So according to the orders in the secret enevelop Ferdinao de Naronha became Viceroy. Philip III, the king of Portugal had appointed Dom Affanso de Naronha to the post of Viceroy. He started from Lisbon on 29th April 1621 to assume the charge of the post at Goa but during the voyage he died. So king Philip VI (Philip III died on 31.3.1621) deputed Dom Franscisco de Gama as a Viceroy once again. Previously he had held this office in India for three years and left India in the year 1600. During his tenure enemies of Portugal in the East were becoming powerful, both with ships and men; many of their ships being large and heavily armed. To add to the difficulties of the Portuguese, the revenues at their several ports were considerably diminished, owing to an extensive system of smuggling, more especially at Goa and in Ceylon.[2] While coping with this state of affairs Dom Fransciso de Gama in 1627 received orders from Lisbon to hand over his office to D.F. Luiz de Brito, Bishop of Cochin.[3] This Viceroy died in July 1629 and Nuno Olvarez Botello assumed the office

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[1] Surendranath Sen, Studies in Indian History, p. 16.

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1. Bendre, Portuguesanchya Maharashtratil Halchali, pp. 18-19.
2. Danvers, op.cit., Vol. II, p. 225.
3. Ibid., p. 227.

of Governor on 2nd August 1629 according to the orders from Lisbon. In the same year Lisbon nominated Conde de Linhares to the Government of India in Lisbon. He came to India and served there till 1635 A.D. He left the Portuguese possessions in India in a state of General peace.[1] Pedro da Silva became the Viceroy and succeeded him in December 1635. This Viceroy died on 24th June 1639. So the temporary arrangement was made by appointing D.F. Fransciso, the Arch Bishop of Goa to this post till Antonio Telis assumed the charge of the post on 4th December 1639. A revolution took place in Portugal and Dom Jaao IV became the king of Portugal on 15th December 1640. Telode Menezes who was posted as Viceroy assumed the charge of the post on 20th September 1640. He was succeeded by Dom Philipi Mascarenhas on 10th April 1644. He joined his duties at Goa on 30th December 1644. He left the charge in the hands of three men's committee and left Goa according to the orders of the king of Portugal. The king appointed Conde de Obidos to the post who left Lisbon on 15th March, 1652 and resumed the charge on 6th September 1652 at Goa.[2]

The Nizamshahi - Portuguese Relations in Konkan

We have already seen that in 1580 the Portuguese were ruling Daman, island of Bombay, Bassein and Chaul in North Konkan. In 1580 when Portugal had been annexed to Spain, her commercial and political policy underwent a change in so far as it began to be dominated by the Spanish policy which was more religious and less commercial. Proselytisation became the order of the day and the Portuguese engaged themselves in converting the Indians to Christianity. They did not give up their missionary zeal till they got a blow to their dominions by the English and the Dutch.[1]

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[1] Danvers, op.cit., Vol. II, p. 255.

[2] Ibid., p. 488.

Although the Portuguese had a peace treaty concluded with the Nizamshahi in 1571, in 1592 there occured an incident which sparked the quarrel between the two powers. A ship named "Husaini" which was coming from Mecca to the port of Mustafabad (Chaul) with a large number of Muslim pilgrims was plundered by the Portuguese near Vaisi which was in their possession. To put down the Portuguese effectively in that region the Nizamshahi built up a fort on the hill of Korla, overlooking the sea between Chaul and Revadanda. With view to strike terror into the hearts of the Portuguese, Burhan Nizamshah II declared a holy war against the Portuguese.[2] A large army numbering about 10,000 horsemen marched under the command of Farhad Khan. Shujaatkhan was soon ordered to reinforce the fort of Korla and defend it.[3] For some time the Portuguese suffered reverses but soon they succeeded in throwing the supplies into the fort of Revadanda and with the help of

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1. Da Cunha, op. cit., p. 60.
2. Radheyshyam, op. cit., p. 347.
3. Briggs - *Ferishta*, III, p. 285.

four thousand fresh reinforcement they attacked the fort of Korla. On the approach of the Portuguese, the Nizamshahis fled in confusion towards the fort, whither they were so closely followed by the invaders who gained entrance into it, put 12,000 of them to sword and set fire to it, destroying it completely.[1] Thereafter, Nizamshahis got reinforcement. Arriving before the fort in April 1592 the Nizamshahis opened the siege. The Portuguese also got a fresh help of garrison and they attacked the Nizamshahi army. A severe battle took place in which the latter were defeated with heavy losses and many of them were slain in the field of battle.[2] In 1594 Burhan Nizamshah II again assembled a large army of foreigners to attack the Portuguese in Konkan. But due to his death the kingdom of Ahmednagar was practically engaged in civil war and palace revolution. In these circumstances the Portuguese were left free to pursue their own course on the Nizamshahi soil. In 1600 the Mughals laid siege to the fort of Ahmednagar. The Portuguese, for their own selfish interests, secretly helped the siege (1600-1) by supplying them with men, money and ammunition.[3]

Although the fort of Ahmednagar was captured by the Mughals it got a fresh lease of life at the hands of Malik Ambar. As to the Portuguese, their position in the

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1. Briggs - Ferishta, III, p. 280.
2. Radheyshyam, op. cit., p. 349.
3. Ibid., p. 350.

commercial and political set up had undergone a redical change. In fact, after 1600 A.D. the Portuguese power began to decline because of their corrupt officers and rivalary with the English and the Dutch who were giving blows to the Portuguese on land and on the sea. At this time the port of Chaul was controlled by the Portuguese from the adjoining hillock which was in their possession and near it lay Nizamshahi port of Revadanda which now afforded the point of contact between them and Malik Ambar in 1601 A.D.[1] Guided by the instincts of self preservations the Portuguese openly sought him an alliance with him.[2] The relations between the two remained very cordial till 1604, when the Portuguese obtained from the Regent the right of collecting half of the Land Revenue in the vicinity of Chaul. But the Portuguese wrought great havoc near Chaul in 1605. To stop their brutal conduct Abdul Karim, provincial Governor of Chaul, got the help of the Dutch fleet to cruise against the Portuguese in 1609 A.D.[3] Thus open war began at Chaul. To wage it on a large scale both the sides made full preparations. Several skirmishes were fought. But no decisive battle took place. Both of them heard the impending campaign of Khan Jahan Lodi in the Deccan and they sank their differences and concluded peace.[4]

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[1] Da Cunha, op. cit., p. 60.

[2] Radheshyam, op. cit., p. 351.

[3] Da Cunha, op. cit., p. 63.

[4] Radheshyam, op. cit., p. 353.

During the period Chaul was visited by the French traveller Francois Pyrard, who was in India between 1601 to 1608. He writes, "The city and fortress of Chaul differs from others (Damaun and Bassein), in being extremely rich and abounding in valuable goods, which merchants from all parts of India and the east came here to seek for. But the principal article is silk, which there is so large a quantity as to supply both the markets of Goa and India, and are far nicer than those of China. In Goa it is highly appreciated and they make the clothing of it, besides of the cotton stuff which is also woven here"[1]. Thus the traveller alludes to the state of peace in the country.

Thereafter, trouble arose at Chaul in 1612-13 A.D. The Thanedar of Chaul, to avenge the losses he had sustained at the hands of the Portuguese plotted against the Portuguese commander of the fort. He was taken unaware and assassinated. Ferdinao de sampayo Da Cunha, who was in command also arrived and surrounded the Muslims and put everyone of them to death. After this Da Cunha ravaged the whole country adjacent to town and made three hundred captives. This enraged Nizamshah who decided to attack Portuguese strongholds at Salsette, Bassein and Agashi.[2] The Portuguese fort of Manora was besieged by the Muslims. Malik Ambar also sent more troops against Agashi. The Portuguese were now reduced to a miserable plight but the

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1. Da Cunha, op. cit., p. 63.
2. Danvers, op. cit., II, pp. 158-159.

timely arrival of Freire de Andrade at Agashi saved the situation.[1] No sooner did Andrade find himself free from the threat of Muslim forces, than he was called to Daman where the local king had sent his men to drive away the Portuguese inhabitants. Andrade put them to flight. After the conditions became normal the Portuguese, for their own safety, came to a sort of truce with Malik Ambar and thereby also obtained a respite to recoup their losses.[2]

In 1615 the Portuguese, Burhan Nizamshah III and Adilshah concluded a treaty of peace among themselves on 9th October 1615 ratifying the terms of treaty of 1571 A.D.[3] But as Malik Ambar entertained friendly relations with the Dutch and the English, an additional condition was incorporated in it.[4]

It was laid down that in the Nizamshahi territory the English and the Dutch should be forbidden to settle down and its ruler should never extend any sort of assistance to them.

After five years of friendship, terms of the treaty were violated by disturbing the peace of Chaul in June 1625 A.D. In the same year, the port of Dabhol was annexed by the Nizamshahi. Thereafter, the Portuguese came to a sort of truce with the Nizamshahi resident of that place on 10th June 1625.[1] During the year 1623 and 1625 a traveller Pietro della Valle visited Chaul and has left a record of peace and tranquility that prevailed in Chaul.[2] Thereafter, Chaul witnessed the state of rapid decline. The resident of Chaul remained supremely indifferent to the inevitable decay and dissolution which awaited the misgoverned settlement. The military spirit of Chaul was on decline in the first quarter of the seventeenth century.[3]

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[1] Danvers, op.cit., II, p. 159.

[2] B.G. Tamaskar, "Malik Ambar and the Portuguese," Journal of Andhra Historical Research Society, Vol. XVI (July 1945 to April 1948), pp. 106-08).

[3] Radheshyam, op.cit., p. 354.

[4] Pandurang Pissurlenkar, "The extinction of the Nizamshahis," Sardesai Commemoration Volume, pp. 31-32.

During the decline of the Nizamshahi kingdom, Malik Ambar, the Abyssinian minister of Ahmednagar, managed the revenues in the most enlightened spirit, and extended to the Konkan all the advantages of good Government. He abolished revenue farming and committed the management of the district to Brahmin agents under Muhammadan superintendence. He also carried out survey on very excellent principles, and this in the Konkan extended from the Vaitarna to the Savitri except in the Habshi's territory.[4]

Bijapur And The Portuguese In Konkan

We have seen that the Portuguese stormed the Goa harbour belonging to Adilshah and occupied it on 25th November 1510. Since then, the relation of Bijapur and the Portuguese were at no time cordial. Having failed to dislodge the Portuguese from Goa, the Adilshahi adpoted a conciliatory policy and concluded a peace treaty with the

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1. Radheyshyam, op.cit., p. 356.
2. Da Cunha, Ibid., p. 64.
3. Ibid., p. 65.
4. Nairne, The History of the Konkan, p. 47.

Portuguese.[1] Thereafter, the relations between Adilshahi and the Portuguese continued to be peaceful for 35 years after which fresh complications arose. In 1545 Adilshah's brother Abdahhah quarrelled with the king and took refuge with the Portuguese of Goa. At this time the Portuguese were engaged in fight on the Gujarat coast. Ibrahim Adilshah, taking advantage of this, marched with his forces into the disputed districts and re-occupied them.[2] The Portuguese soon returned from Goa and attacked the Bijapuri port of Dabhol, plundered it and hastened towards Goa.[3] They also recaptured the districts of Salsette and Bardes from the Bijapuris. Don Noan de Castro, the Portuguese Governor, despatched a fleet which sacked and burnt Adilshahi ports between Shrivardhan and Goa.[4] Ibrahim Adilshah became nervous at the victories of the Portuguese and sought peace with them. Accordingly a treaty was signed on 22nd August 1548. Adilshah also restored to them the two districts which were earlier captured by them.[5] Adilshah found a grand coalition of Muslim States and defeated the Vijaynagar king at the battle of Talikot in 1565. Emboldened with the success of this battle Adilshah decided to recover Goa and other ports from the Portuguese. Accordingly, in January 1570, Murtaja Nizamshah besieged Chaul and Ali

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1. Whiteway, Rise of Portuguese Power in India, pp. 285-86.
2. Danvers, op. cit., pp. 475-77.
3. Varma, History of Bijapur, p. 58.
4. Danvers, op. cit., pp. 475-77.
5. Bikar, Collection of Treaties, Vol. II, p. 192.

Adilshah himself advanced towards Goa. Ali Adilshah found stiff resistance from the Portuguese and he gave up the siege. The siege of Chaul also fizzled out after seven months.[1] The Portuguese, on the other hand, sacked Dabhol in retaliation for Bijapur's attack on Goa. Bijapuris came to terms and sought the renewal of the treaty of friendship.[2]

Now the Portuguese saw the danger of getting out of their hand Daman and Bassein which were being threatened by the Mughals. The reason was that these places were formerly belonging to the kingdom of Cambay of which the Mughal had now obtained possession. Immediate succur was sent from Goa in the river of Daman in January 1572. This quick action of the Portuguese struck terror into the hearts of the Mughals who immediately sent for peace, and entered into treaty of friendship with the Portuguese.[3] In 1582 there arose a quarrel over Dabhol between the Portuguese and Adilshahi. In the previous treaty Adilshah had agreed to demolish Dabhol fort and hand over cannons therein to the Portuguese. According to the peace treaty, the two Portuguese vessels, the debts and the Jakats were not returned by the Adilshahis to the Portuguese. The Portuguese went with their fleet before Dabhol to compel Adilshahi to execute the articles of the previous treaty.

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[1] Danvers, op.cit., pp. 560-68.

[2] Bikar, op.cit., p. 42.

[3] Danvars, op.cit., Vol. II, p. 23.

This had a desired effect. Ali Adilshah entered into fresh treaty with the Goa Viceroy Senor de Franscisco Mascarenhas on 29th January 1582.[1]

Appearance of the Dutch and the English in Indian Waters:

For the account of the circumstances which induced the Dutch and the English to enter into competition with the Portuguese by sending ships direct to India, it is necessary to review briefly the political situation in Europe at this period.

Till 1581 the whole Europe was under the religions prosecution of the kings of Portugal and Spain. The long persecution of the king of Spain at last roused the Dutch to throw of the hated spanish yoke. By the act of "Abjuration" the Dutch declared their independence on 26th July, 1581 and sought military help from England to defend this independence from Spain.[2]

The British The England understood that the struggle of the Dutch was for the protection of independence and protestant religion. Therefore, they accepted the invitation of the Dutch and provided them men and material to fight against Spain and Portugal. Thus England and Holand joined together in 1585 to fight against the Portuguese. During the period 1585 to 1600 the English East India Company helped the Dutch to fit out their trading vessels to India. Upto 1585 the trade in India was Portugal's royal monopoly. In 1586 the monopoly to the Portuguese trade was made over by the Government to the Portuguese East India Company.[1]

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[1] Bendre, op.cit., p. 13.

[2] Danvers, op.cit., Vol. II, pp. 101-104.

About 1580 the Franciscan fathers of Portuguese nation took possession of the caves of Kanheri and Mandapeshwar, expelled the Jogis who occupied them, and did their best to destroy the sculptures, as at Elphanta, on account of the supertitious feelings of the natives with respect to them. Over the caves at Mandapeshwar they built a Royal College of Salsette for the education of the children of the converts.[2] The Portuguese Jesuits established themselves in every town and village of the Districts of Bassain and Thana. In 1585 the Franciscans received charge of Mandapeshwar, Mahim, Bombay, Karanja, Mount Calvary and Agashi. "Gradually all power fell into the hands of the ecclesiastics, and the church was said to have a larger revenue in India than the king himself."[3] It is already seen that Queen Elizabeth of England concluded a treaty of alliance with the Dutch in 1585. The king of Spain and Portugal took this incident as a proclamation of war against him and issued a decree ordering the seizure of all English as well as Dutch vessels within his ports together with confiscation of property and arrest of persons.[4] Inspite of Portuguese opposition the Dutch carried naval expedition to China since 1596 and firmly established their trade in the East in 1599.[1] The English squadron and the Dutch naval flotila started blockading the Portuguese fleet to India.[2]

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[1] Nairne, op.cit., p. 62.
[2] Ibid., p. 56.
[3] Ibid., p. 57.
[4] Danvers, op.cit., Vol. II, p. 108.

At Malacca, there arose a war between the Portuguese and the Dutch fleet. The Portuguese succeeded in giving a crushing blow to the Dutch and drove them out of Amboyana and Sunda.[3] In the year 1604-06 the Dutch and the Portuguese had frequent skirmishes. Everytime each party used to suffer a defeat alternatively. This time the Portuguese felt the superiority of the Dutch fleet, In March 1607, there was a steep fight between the Dutch warships and the Portuguese fleet in the port of Mozambique. Both suffered heavy losses.[4] After three months the Dutch received help from the home Government and they anchored in the Goa harbour and blockaded movement of Portuguese ships.[5] After some time the Dutch fleet sailed away from the Goa port.[6]

In 1611 the English fleet came near Surat, but the Portuguese resisted its anchoring in the port of Surat. After three days of battle the English raised anchor and

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1. Danvers, op.cit., Vol. II, p. 109.
2. Ibid., p. 110.
3. Ibid., p. 123, 135-137.
4. Ibid., pp. 138-139.
5. Ibid., p. 140.
6. Bendre, op.cit., p. 72.

went away for getting supplies.[1] The Dutch also entered into peace treaty with the king of Kandy on 11th March 1612 and got authority to carry on the trade in the island of Ceylon.[2]

At the end of 1613 the fort of Manora, Portuguese possession was besieged by the enemy; but the besigers were driven off by the Portuguese who afterwards returned to Thana.[3] The Adilshahi Thanedar of Dabhol, despatched troops against Agashi which was a Protuguese possession.. The Portuguese with the help of fleets from Diu and Bassein men drove the muslims away from the vicinity of that place.[4]

A continued menace caused by the Dutch and the English fleets, compelled the Portuguese to avoid quarrel with the native powers.

In 1615 captain Downton of the British fleet received the news that the Portuguese has suggested to the Mughal Emperor to drive away the English from Surat and capture that city.[5] In 1613-1614 the Portuguese found that the country round Chaul was wholly hostile to the Portuguese. Steps were taken to improve fortifications of the place and this compelled the enemy to withdraw.

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1. Danvers, op.cit., II,pp. 152-154.
2. Ibid., pp. 162-163.
3. Ibid., p. 159.
4. Ibid., p. 160.
5. Ibid.,

Similarly Bassein was besieged by the Mughals but they were forced to retire, with considerable loss after severe fighting.[1] At this time fort Manora, four leagues from the mouth of the river of Agashi was facing a siege by the Mughals. The Portuguese took the besiegers by surprise, inflicting much damage. The Mughals thereupon raised the siege of Manora and retired.[2] The Mughals now began to attack the Portuguese possessions at Daman and Ponda. The attackers were repulsed with great efforts and loss of men and material. Therefore, the Portuguese concluded a peace treaty with the Emperor Jahangir on 7th June 1615.[3] As the Portuguese were experiencing troubles and resistance from these European rivals the chief points in the treaty expressed their mutual enmity to the English and Dutch and the necessity of destroying the Malahar pirates.[4] However, soon it was noticed by traveller De la Valle that the English and the Dutch ships frequenting the ports of Dabhol, Chaul and Bassein without hindrance and without acknowledging Portuguese supremacy.[5]

However, in 1623, the Dutch fleet moved from Goa port and started towards Surat. In the way at Dabhol they met with a stiff resistance from the Portuguese. At Dabhol the Dutch demolished one Masjid, put many houses on fire and indulged in looting rich people before they left the port.[1]

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[1] Danvers, op.cit., Vol. II, p. 165.

[2] Ibid., p. 166.

[3] Ibid., pp. 173-174; full Text Bikers, Portuguese Treaties, Vol. 2, pp. 314-319.

[4] Narine, op.cit., pp. 62-63.

[5] Ibid., p. 63.

In 1625 the Portuguese fleet under Bottelo approached Daman. The English fleet which was passing near Daman had a skirmish with the Portuguese; the battle continued for three days but it was indecisive. Thereafter the English ships went away.

In 1626 the English and the Dutch fleet came near Bombay with the preparation to storm and capture it. The men from the ships got down on the shore of Bombay and looted the city and caused much chaos. The city was burning the whole day. Due to their incessant volleys of Cannon the houses of inhabitants and the fort were burnt. They captured two cannon and returned to their ships in the evening.[3]

The cities of upper and lower Chaul inh~~e~~abited by the Musalman and Christian respectively flourished as long as the Ahmednagar kingdom lasted, and for some time afterwards- But the Bijapur kings were always more or less at war with the Portuguese and their Konkan coast was subjected to perpetual ravages: yet it remained entirely in the hands of the Musalmans until the Marathas took it.[3] How this happened is unfolded in the next chapter.

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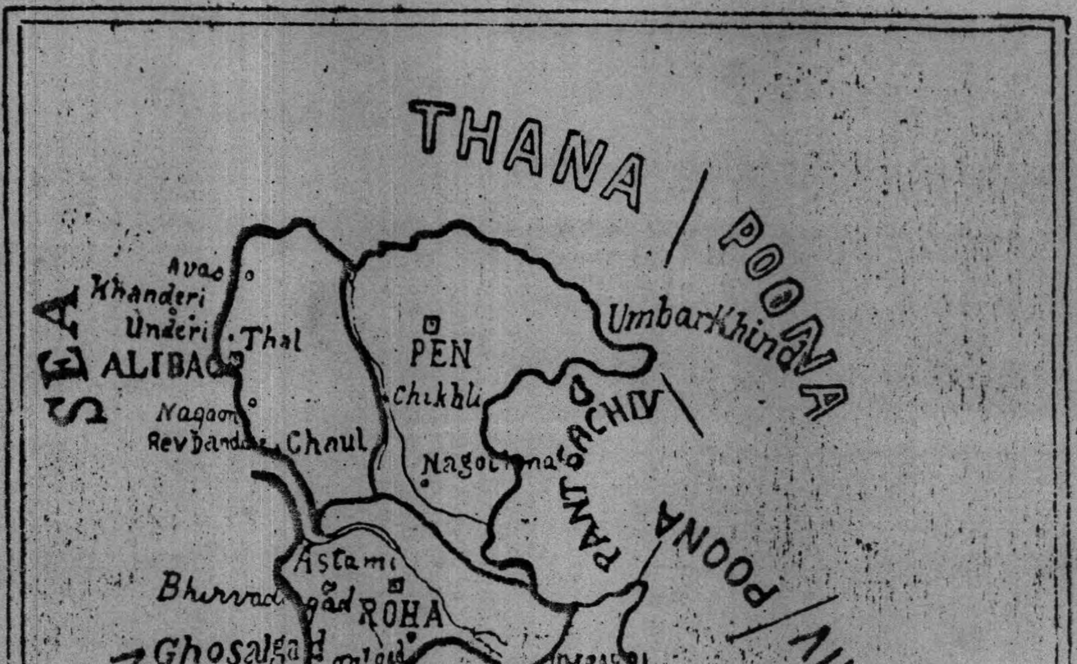
1. Danvers, op.cit., Vol. II, p. 224.
2. Bendre, op.cit., p. 81.
3. Nairne, op.cit., p. 38.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CHAPTER II

SHIVAJI AND THE KONKAN (1630-1680)

Shahaji, father of Shivaji, returned to the service of Nizamshah in 1628. In this year the Nizamshah who proposed to invade Talkonkan asked Kanhoji Jedhe to join him.[1] At this time prince Shahjahan, then a rebel against his father, lay in concealment in the vicinity of Junnar while his family was kept in hiding in the fort of Asheri in Konkan near Mahim on the west coast.[2] On 25th July 1629 the Nizamshah treacherously killed Shahaji's father-in-law Lakhuji Jadhav, his sons and grandsons. So under the pressure of circumstances, Shahaji left the Nizamshahi and accepted a Mansab under Shahjahan. For about a year and a half, from November 1630 to March 1632 Shahaji served the Mughal cause.[3]

Shahaji left Jijabai, his wife, in the fort Shivneri in October 1629 where she gave birth to a son on 16th February 1630.[4] He was named Shivaji who later found the Maratha kingdom.

In the year 1630-31 the whole of Deccan including Konkan was in the grip of draught. Therefore, Emperor Shahjahan put off his expedition to Deccan by one year.

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1. B.I.S.M., Shivcharitra Sahitya Khand, 5, L 837, p. 89.
2. Sardesai, New History of the Marathas, I, p. 55.
3. Ibid., p. 59.
4. Shivcharitra Pradip, Jedhe Shakavali, p. 15.

During the year 1630 the Portuguese and the English proposed a peace treaty which was concluded in 1635.[1] But the enmity between the Portuguese and the Dutch continued. In the year 1631 Burhan Nizamshah was killed treacherously. Shahaji tried to save Nizamshahi with the help of the Sidis and other Marathas in Konkan.[2]

In 1632 an ambassador from Emperor Shahjahan came to Bijapur to enter into an alliance with Bijapur and to enlist his active support against Nizamshah who was in occupation of North Konkan.[3] Adilshah tried to form alliance with the Dutch in order to recover Goa from the Portuguese. The Portuguese became friendly with Adilshahi and renewed the treaty of friendship with Muhammad Adilshah in April 1633. The treaty reaffirmed the old friendly relations and further laid down that the Adilshah would not enter into any alliance with the Dutch for harming the Portuguese. The Portuguese also deputed their envoy to the Mughal emperor. Their main intention was to urge the emperor not to entertain the Dutch and the English merchants for trade purposes. On the approach of the Portuguese envoy, the Mughals got reconciled with them, freed their 200 ships which were captured in the various ports and gave up the idea of attacking the Portuguese.[5]

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[1] Bendre, Portuguesanchya Maharashtratil Halchali, p.80.
[2] Bendre, Maloji Ani Shahaji Maharaj, p. 353.
[3] Shivaji Nibandhavali (1930), Bhag 2, p. 82.
[4] Varma, History of Bijapur, p. 59.
[5] Danvers, The Portuguese in India, Vol. II, p. 200.

While Shahaji was in the service of the Nizamshah, on 26th September 1636, he addressed a letter to the Portuguese Captain in charge of the Chaul fort, and requested him to permit his family to stay in the fort of Chaul. As he was stationed at Balaghat and since he had always maintained friendly relations with the Portuguese, he wanted to ensure the safety of his family. Shahaji also added that if the necessity arose, he would seek shelter in the Chaul fort and, in return, even cede some territory from the Nizamshahi kingdom to the Portuguese since it was all in his power. But due to fear of the Mughal Emperor, the Portuguese did not comply with Shahaji's request. They, however, informed Shahaji that if he wanted to remove his family to Dandarajapuri or some such place, they would secretly, help him to do so.[1]

In 1636 A.D. Shahjahan came to the Deccan with an army and fixed his headquarters at Daulatabad to direct operations against Nizamshahi in person. He placed a division of 12,000 strong under the command of Khan Zaman and ordered him to march towards Ahmednagar, to reduce the entire Konkan and wait for further orders regarding attack on the Adilshahi country. But the Adilshahi made the conquest of their kingdom by the Mughals more difficult. Therefore, the Mughals concluded peace with Adilshah. According to terms of the treaty, Adilshah was to pay an annual tribute of twenty lacs of rupees and to acknowledge the Suzerainty of the Mughal Emperors. Secondly, he had to treat the Nizamshahi kingdom as defunct; and its territory was to be divided between him and the Mughals. He was assigned the area comprising Sholapur, Wangi Mahalls, the paraganas of Bhalki, Chitkopa and the Konkan which included the district of Poona and Chakan. The treaty was concluded and ratified by the Mughal Emperor in May 1636 A.D. which sealed the fate of Nizamshahi kingdom.[1] Thereafter, the Mughals annexed the kingdom of Ahmednagar and gave part of Nizamshahi Konkan in the possession of Adilshah of Bijapur.

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[1] Parvate, Portuguese-Mahratta relations, p. 34.

Early in 1637 the Dutch envoy Van Twist came to Muhammad Adilshah and sought his permission to trade in the Adilshahi ports and to build a factory at Vengurla. Adilshah gave his consent to this proposal which enraged the Portuguese who used all means to stop Adilshah at Vengurla in executing his promise to the Dutch. However, nothing materialised and the Dutch carried the point. The Portuguese then launched an offensive against the Adilshah by capturing Adilshahi ships with all the merchandise and men on them by imposing customs restrictions on the land frontier and by erecting fortifications in some frontier outposts. These acts were followed by a sharp exchange of notes between Bijapur and Goa.[2]

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[1] Radheshyam, Kingdom of Ahmadnagar, pp. 325-26.

[2] Varma, op.cit., p. 59.

The Adilshah turned to the Dutch for help but they failed to respond. Therefore, Adilshah concluded a new treaty of friendship with the Portuguese. It stipulated that the Adilshah would not permit any Dutch to reside in his dominion by providing land and facilities for trade. The Portuguese were allowed to attack the Dutch at Vengurla or at any other sea port. The Portuguese also undertook to compensate Adilshah for any damage done by the Dutch to his vessels provided the Adilshah treated the Dutch as his deadly enemies.[1]

The relations between the Dutch and the Portuguese worsened early in 1643. After 1642, the Adilshahi Government began to decline owing to the Sultan's drunken habits and alcoholism. He became bed ridden in 1646 with paralysis, while his best generals were busy extending his dominions in the western Karnatak, the Poona district and Kalyan province in Konkan were left to the mercy of the young Shivaji who was seizing territory in the Sinhgad region looting the treasure that was passing from Kalyan to Bijapur.

A little later, about 1646, Shivaji gained the fort of Torna by winning over its Adilshahi commandant. He also built some new fortifications in the neighbouring hills. But no notice of these acts were taken by the Bijapur Court.[2] After the death of Dadaji (7 March 1647), Shivaji

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1. Varma, op.cit., p. 59.
2. Sarkar, Shivaji (5th Ed.,), p. 34.

got possession of some more forts from Bijapuri territory and consolidated his position.[1]

In 1649, the Jagir of Shivaji included Pune, Indapur, Baramati, Chakan and Supa. To this Jagir Shivaji added twelve Mavals as well as the forts of Rohida, Kondana, Torna, Purandhar and Rajgad. This formed the foundation of Hindvi Swarajya by the year 1653.[2]

For the next six years (1650-1655), Shivaji did not disturb the Bijapur Government. But, till the release of Shahaji, he seemed to be engaged in consolidating and organising Swarajya territory acquired by him. During this period Shivaji made systematic attempts to win over the Maratha leaders like the Ghorpades, Mores, Shirkes, Nimbalkars, Jadhavs, Ghatges to espouse boldly the noble cause of a free Hindu State. But seven years later, he had increased and consolidated his power and felt that he had nothing to fear from Bijapur thereafter, as the Adilshahi Government was threatened with absorption by Prince Aurangzeb, the Mughal Governor of the Deccan.[3]

Shivaji now thought of taking possession of the Konkan territory whence he could bid defiance to the Bijapur king and the Mughal emperor. But all the passes between the Konkan and the plains below the hills were in the possession of the Mores of Javli. It was evident that whosoever possessed Javli, could fully master the district of Wai, the whole range of the Sahyadris and the sea coast running along it. There is little doubt that Shivaji was a pragmatic idealist and strategist. Shivaji sent emissaries to More with a request to join him in freeing the country from the yoke of Muslims. The Mores turned a deaf ear.[1] Failing his efforts of persuation of the Mores, Shivaji thought it necessary to remove them from his path of expansion.

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[1] Sarkar, op.cit., p. 35.
[2] Sardesai, NHM, Vol. I, p. 107.
[3] Maharashtra State Gazetteer, Maratha period, p. 7.

The Jagir of Javli was defended by ten to twelve thousands of troops. So Shivaji himself went against Javli with the troops of Deshmukhs and captured it on 31st December 1655. When Chandrarao More incharge of Javli lost Javli, he took shelter at Raigad where Shivaji besieged him.[2] The siege lasted for three months, and the More finally submitted through the mediation of Haibatrao Silimkar. The whole principality of Javli was conquered.[3] Shivaji got immense wealth which the Mores had been piling up there for generations.

By the inclusion of Javli territory in his charge Shivaji became master of the hilly country of the Konkan. He also became master of some of the invincible fortresses like Rairi or Raigad on the high peaks of the Sahyadris. Thereby he also controlled the mountain passes and thus

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1. Balkrishna, Shivaji the Great, Vol.I, p. 31.
2. Shivcharitra Pradeep - Shivapur Daftaratil Yadi, p.50.
3. Ibid., Jedhe Shakavali, pp. 17-18.

the trade and traffic passing between the inland country, and the sea. His kingdom for the first time extended to the sea coast, so that he could make the town of Mahad its emporium and a naval base for the ship building industry.

Konkan under Bijapur

Since 1637 the Bijapur State was the paramount power in the Konkan. Muhammad Adilshah died on 4th November 1656. The forts of Dabhol, Anjanvel, Ratnagiri and Rajapur with the districts depended upon them were held by the officers appointed by the crown. But the remainder of the southern Konkan was farmed out to the hereditary Deshmukhs of whom the Sawants of Kudal were the Chiefs. The middle Konkan was divided into two Subhedaris; the first being Kalyan, extended from the Vaitarna to Nagothana under Mulla Ahmad; the rest down to the Savitri was put under the charge of the Sidis of Janjira. In this region, the latter held important forts of Tala and Ghosala. The Northern Konkan was in the hands of the Portuguese and the Mughals.[1]

The serious illness of Muhammad Adilshah, who died on 4th November 1656, kept Mulla Ahmed (the Subhedar of Kalyan), at Bijapur since 1646.

In 1656 Aurangzeb invaded Bijapur on the plea that Ali Adilshah II, was not a genuine prince of the royal house[2] and help of Shivaji was sought by both. Shivaji felt it more profitable to side with Bijapur and enrich himself. When in September 1656, the Bijapur Government made peace with Aurangzeb,[1] Shivaji decided to conciliate the Mughals. His envoy, Raghunath Pant met Aurangzeb on 25th January 1658 and secured a letter of pardon for the Maratha Chief.[2]

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[1] Nairne, History of the Konkan, pp. 34-35.

[2] Sardesai, op.cit., Vol. I, p. 107.

Aurangzeb wrote to Shivaji, "though your offences do not deserve pardon, I forgive you as you have repented. You propose that, if you are granted all the villages belonging to your home together with the forts and territory of Konkan, after the imperialists have seized the old Nizamshahi territory now in the hands of the Adilshah you will send Sona Pandit as your envoy to my court, and a contingent of 500 horse under one of your officers to serve under me and you will protect the imperial frontiers. You are called upon to send Sonaji and your prayers will be granted".[3]

Shivaji saw that the city of Kalyan was without sufficient defence during the absence of its Governor Mulla Ahmad who had gone to Bijapur to attend the ailing monarch of Bijapur. He undertook expedition against the Portuguese at Kalyan and Bhivandi. He ordered two divisions to get ready. Dadaji Bapuji (a cousin of Samaraj Pant Peshwa) was put in charge of one division. Dadaji Krishna Lohokare and his brother Sakhoji (the Karbharis of Kanhoji Nayak)

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1. Sharma, Maratha History (re examined), p. 135.
2. Shivkalin Patra Sar Sangraha, L. 739.
3. Sharma, op.cit., p. 135.

were specially asked to proceed to Konkan with their strong Maval contingents. Abaji Sondeo with the help of Maval contingent succeeded in capturing Kalyan on 24th October 1657 and thereafter Bhivandi. They plundered the Portuguese possessions and established a post at Aseri Fort. The Portuguese agreed to pay Khandi and a quarter of gold every year.[1] The Muslim officers and forces were turned out, the places were garrisoned with Mawles. Dadaji Krishna Lohokare, a brave and experienced officer was put in charge of Kalyan and his brother Sekho Krishna Lohokare was put in charge of Bhivandi. They immediately began to make arrangements for the revenue settlement of the newly acquired province to consolidate their conquest.[2]

Abaji Mahadeo was made Subhedar of the conquerred territory. During the siege of Kalyan a beautiful daughter-in-law of the Muslim Governor fell into the hands of Abaji Mahadeo who presented her to Shivaji. Shivaji, in an open court appreciated her beauty with the remark that he would have been more handsome, if he had been born of such a lovely young mother. She was presented with a dress of honour and sent back to her parents at Bijapur, with all the due respect due to her rank.[3] This incident proved the high character of Shivaji.

The annexation of Kalyan gave Shivaji vast collection of iron weapons, rockets etc. which he distributed over several forts. Thereafter, Shivaji founded Sivapattan at the fort of Rajgad as well as strengthened the defence of Prabalgad (east of Panvel).[1] He also made Kalyan a naval base and built dockyards.[2] It is said that Shivaji also got a large buried treasure in the ruins of the fort on the Durgadi Hill which protects the port of Kalyan. Shivaji made use of this treasure in ship-building with the help of abundant teak wood available on the neighbouring hills.[3]

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[1] Sharma, op.cit., p. 136.

[2] Balkrishna, op.cit., Vol. I, p. 41.

[3] 91 Q. Bakhar, p. 61; Balkrishna, op.cit, Vol.I, p. 41; Varma, op.cit., p. 160.

On 8th January Shivaji captured Mahuli.[4] Then hill forts of Rajmachi and Lohgad were seized. This success made him an undisputed master of the country from Poona to Thana at one stroke. Shivaji day by day increased in st strength and reduced all the forts of the country and got firm footing in the North Konkan.[5]

The capture of Northern part of the Konkan brought to him plenty of wealth and merchandise.[6] His success in the southern part of the modern Raigad District was still more easy on account of the help he received from the petty chieftains of the locality who were eager to free themselves from the Adilshahi yoke. He captured Surgad, Birwadi, Tala, Ghosalgad, Bhurap, Kangori and Raigad which later became his capital.[1] In short, a good part of the modern Thana and Raigad districts came under his sway. In this sweeping victory the greatest sufferer was the Sidi of Janjira, a vassal of Bijapur, who had been in possession of the eastern part of Raigad district. Shivaji built new forts at Birwadi and Lingana. Kalyan and Bhivandi were turned into naval bases. Kalyan was also used for plundering the neighbouring territory of the Portuguese.

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[1] Shivaji Souvenir, p. 79; Sarkar, op.cit., p. 56.

[2] Sharma, op.cit., p. 136.

[3] Vakaskar, Shiv Charitra 91 qualami Bakhar, para 61; Balkrishna, op.cit., Vol. II, p. 292.

[4] Sarkar, Shivaji, p. 56. Mahuli is in Thana District.

[5] Khafi Khan, Elliot and Dowson, Vol. VII, p. 258.

[6] Bendre, Basatin-Us-Salatin, pp. 369-370; Khafikhan, op.cit., Vol. VII, pp. 256-257.

Bijapur noticed these activities of Shivaji with alarm. The Bijapur court was torn with dissensions and partisan activity was at its highest. On the other hand, Shivaji's power had greatly increased during recent years; popular report had raised the strength of Shivaji's Mavle infantry to 60,000. No commander of note was prepared to take commission against Shivaji. Ultimately Afzal Khan came forward to offer his services in a spirit of bravado.[2] He was murdered and his force, was routed by the Marathas under Shivaji's leadership. But in another encounter with Sidi and Fazalkhan, Shivaji had to give up fort Panhala to Bijapur. He had also to face Mughal Sardar Shaistakhan.

The weak condition of Konkan drew Shivaji's attention to that region. Sending Netaji Palkar to act against the Mughals, himself invaded Bijapuri Konkan to "avenge the loss of Panhala."

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1. Sarkar, op.cit., p. 55.
2. Sabhasad, p. 13; Bendre, op.cit., p. 370.

Shivaji's dealings with English Factors

While conquering the Konkan Shivaji's men came upon Dabhol. There they noticed three loaded trading vessels belonging to Afzalkhan, who was murdered by Shivaji. The Governor of Dabhol took away those ships quickly to Rajapur at the request of Fazlkhan, son of Afzel, and entrusted them to the possession of the English factors for safe custody, less they would fall into Shivaji's hands.[1] Shivaji deputed his emissary to Rajapur to take possession of those enemy ships. The British would not give them over on the plea that Fazlkhan owed them large amount, which they wanted to recover out of the merchandise in ships. At the arrival of Shivaji, Revington, the Chief of the factory, ran for safety out to the sea for fear of being seized. But the Marathas succeeded in seizing the goods and detaining the second officer Gifford (20 January 1660). At this stage Rustam-i-Zaman, Bijapuri Sardar, pleaded with Shivaji for restoring the goods and releasing Gifford. Shivaji agreed and the affair was for the moment closed.[2]

At the beginning of 1661 Kalyan District or North Konkan was invaded by the forces commissioned by Shaistakhan. A large part of the district was occupied by the Mughal force. But the important cities and forts

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1. Kale (Ed)., English Records on Shivaji, p. 4.
2. Ibid., L. 15 & 16, p. 10; Sardesai, NHM., Vol. I, p. 140.

like Kalyan remained unconquered. To complete the Mughal conquest of Konkan Shaistakhan chose a general Kar Talab Khan with heavy force.[1]

On 3rd February 1661 Shivaji surprised Kar Talab Khan, the Mughal officer, who had been commissioned by Shaistakhan to recapture Kalyan. While the Khan was descending from the Bhor Ghat, with his heavy artillery and baggage Shivaji pounced upon him and cutting off alike his retreat and advance, forced him to buy his escape with a ransom.[2]

With the capture of Thana and Raigad District, Shivaji got possession of the Sea Coast from Bassein to Rajapur. He reduced several forts in this region among which was fort Prabalgad near Panvel, which was held by Bijapuri captain named Kesari Sinh, who lost his life in the encounter. Thereupon Shivaji personally went up the fort and discovered at a certain spot a hidden treasure in large vessels full of Mohars, hons and gold bars. When he came to know that Kesari Sinh's mother and two children were hiding he prostrated himself before her, gave her a palki to ride in and sent her to her native residence at Deulgaon under escort.[3]

In May 1661 Mughals first conquered Kalyan and then Mahad, the capital city of that region which they held for nine years. The fort of Deiri,[4] in the Pen

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[1] Wakaskar (ed.,), 91 Qalmi Bakhar, p. 42; Sarkar, Shivaji, p. 83.

[2] Sharma, op.cit., p. 141.

[3] Sardesai, NHM, Vol. I, pp. 116-117.

[4] Deirigad is a hill fort in Pen Taluka (Dist.Raigad), Shivaji Souvenir, p. 75

Sub-division was besieged by a Muslim general named Bulaqi. But a Maratha relieving force under Kavji Kodhalkar drove him away after slaying 400 of his men (21st August 1661). In 1662, Shivaji led an attack on Pen but the Mughal defence was obstinate and Shivaji's forces suffered a heavy loss, in killed and wounded.[1]

From the north Konkan district, Shivaji marched towards south Konkan. His march from Danda Rajapuri to Kharepatan was almost uninterrupted. The local Rajas and city Governors came to pay him obedience and respect. Nizampur (22 miles due east of Janjira) was raided and Dabhol was captured in February 1661. Jaswant Rao, the Raja of Pallivana fled in terror and took shelter with Surya Rao, the Raja of Prabhavali, with his seat at Shringarpur (8 miles north east of Sangmeshwar). The Governor of Sangmeshwar also fled from his charge alongwith other well-to-do persons. The deserted town was placed under the charge of Pilaji Nilkanth and Tanaji Malusare.[2]

Shivaji himself marched for Rajapur by way of Chiplun. On the west coast of Konkan the English had a factory at Rajapur. The English merchants at Rajapur supplied mortars and shells to Sidi Jauhar for the reduction of Panhala fort. They were also seen helpingtthe Bijapuris in the bombardment of the fort.[3] On surrendering Panhala to Bijapur, Shivaji took early steps to teach a lesson to the English at Rajapur for their active assistance to his enemies. Then the immense wealth of that place was the main object of attraction.

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[1] Sarkar, Shivaji, p. 87.
[2] Sardesai, NHM, Vol. I, pp. 138-139.
[3] Sarkar, Shivaji, p. 335.

According to Shivbharat, Rajapur was a wealthy emporium, as the merchandise of Arabia, Persia, Egypt, Africa, China, Europe etc. was imported there for sale.[1] Shivaji suddenly appeared before Rajapur in the beginning of the year 1661. He had with him 1000 horse and about 3000 foot soldiers. His intention was to take possession of Rajapur. The citizens were called to make submission. Therefore, the principal inhabitants went to the place of meeting accompanied by the English Resident, Revington, with two or three other English men who thought it well to pay the mark of respect. They were all put under arrest and their property was seized. Revington and those who accompanied him were placed in the inland fort named Songur while the English men who had remained behind in Rajapur were likewise imprisoned. Their factory was entirely stripped. Even the floor was dug up in search of hidden treasure.[2]

Shivaji collected a large plunder from Rajapur and appointed his own administrators at the port, and also at Kharepatan about ten miles to the South.[3]

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[1] Divekar, Shivbharat, 30, 1-4, p. 304.

[2] Kale, op.cit., p. 22.

[3] Sardesai, NHM, Vol. I, p. 139.

The factory records state that Shivaji wanted help of the English in capturing castle at Danda Rajapuri from the Sidis. With this proposal Shivaji deputed an envoy to the Chief of Rajapur factory who thought that if the castle were taken from the Sidi, all this country would fall into Shivaji's hands. Shivaji's envoy promised the English a handsome seat called Meate Bunder if they assisted him in that business.[1] The English also suggested the following terms for assisting Shivaji.

Terms proposed by the English for assisting Shivaji:

"1. That Shivaji should grant the prisoners their liberty, and restore what has been taken from them (or at least their liberty).

2. That he should undertake to pay the charges of the English ships engaged in the reduction of Danda Rajapuri. If he does ask, the reply might be 10,000 pagodas for each of four ships. In that case 'we have another hope for to creep out at'. For we demand all the money beforehand, which he will never do.

3. That he should give the Company a convenient port town, with a liberty to build a fort, he providing the labour and materials.

4. That, he should allow the English to receive half the customs revenue of that town, their own imports and exports being duty free.

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[1] Kale (Ed.,), op.cit., L. 26, p. 23.

5. That, he should consent to the establishment of a 'TANKSAL' (mint) for a current coining of silver all over his country, and that no Mallabars shall be countenanced by him which we think fit to put in, because at Rajapore he told us he was a Mallabar himself, and has of them at command there as circumstances.

6. That the English should be allowed to buy saltpetre freely.

7. That a warehouse should be given to them in the port-town to be ceded".[1]

These were the lines the English proposed to go upon in any conference with Shivaji. They also requested the Surat authorities to write to him to the same effect. The English were knowing that Shivaji, a perfidious man himself, would not agree to release the English prisoners on promise of help. Therefore they suggested to Surat Factory that Shivaji be threatened by the idea that if they were not released the English would transport Mughal army into the Deccan.[2] Shivaji did not take any cognisance of their plea and sent them as captive to Songad fort. The four Englishmen were well treated but their captivity was prolonged past endurance.[3]

Shivaji took particular care to lookafter the factors in confinement. They requested their President at Surat to intercede with Shivaji, pay the fine and obtain their release. But the President refused to interfere in this affair as it had originated from their own unwarranted behaviour. However, after the death of Revington at Surat in 1662 Raoji Pandit carried the captives to Rajapur where they were released. After this, the English factors resumed their trade at Rajapur. A writer in that factory informed the Surat President that "Shivaji's raid on Rajapur cost it in plunder the amount of 24,000 Hons, the death of two persons and the detention of the factors for two years.[1]" The English factors long continued to press Shivaji for reparation of the damage but he declined.[2]

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[1] Kale, op.cit., p. 24.
[2] Balkrishna, op.cit., Vol. I, p. 136.
[3] Sarkar, Shivaji, p. 337.

By the mediation of Shahaji (his father), Shivaji had come to terms with his nominal overlord, the king of Bijapur, with the result that Rajapur, amongst other districts, had been recognised as part of his territories. The Bijapur Government granted all Shivaji's demands in 1662. He was left in possession of his conquests from Kalyan in the north to Phonda in the South, and from Dabhol in the west to Indapur in the east and his complete independence was acknowledged. Shivaji took a Solemn oath not to molest Bijapur during Shahaji's lifetime.[3]

Simultaneously Shivaji won over two powerful chiefs of South Konkan - The Shirkes of Kutre and the Surves of Shringarpur - to his side so that the whole west coast of

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1. Surat factory Diary No. 1/1659-1696, p. 434.
2. Sardesai, NHM, Vol. I, p. 142.
3. Kincaid and Parasnis, A History of the Maratha People, Vol. I, p. 175.

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Konkan from Bassein to Malvan together with the inland territory stretching up to the Sahyadris came into Shivaji's possession.[1]

CONQUEST OF KUDAL:

The province of Kudal was a part of Konkan. The province of Kudal and the five parganas of Dicholi, Phonda, Pedne, Sankli and Maneri constituted the State of Sawantwadi. Kudal was subdivided into twelve districts and each part was governed by the Desai.

Lakham Sawant who was called Desai of Sawantwadi, was descended from the same Bhosla branch of the Marathas to which Shivaji belonged. Circumstances had forced him to enter into alliance with Shivaji who confirmed him as Sardesai of Kudal in the year 1650 A.D. However, he waverd in his allegiance and several times proved to be his overlord. To punish this faithless ally Shivaji came down to Kudal and made Lakham Sawant captive. Thereafter, negotiations went on after which Lakham Sawant was released and confirmed in his possessions by Shivaji. A treaty of friendship was concluded between Shivaji and Sawants on 5th March 1659.[2]

The terms of the treaty were as follows:

(1) The Sawants should be confirmed in their possessions. They should give half the revenue to Shivaji and keep the other half to themselves. But with this income 3,000 men

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1. Sardesai, NHM, Vol. I, p. 139.
2. Pingulkar, Sawantwadi Sansthancha Itihas (A History of Sawantwadi State), p. 40.

were to be recruited in the infantry. Whenever the Raja would need their services these men should be sent. Even the Sawants should themselves attend whenever their presence was required by the Raja.

(2) The fort and territory of Phonda be given over to the Raja, but the Sawants should help to defend the same whenever necessity arose. In an expedition against Bednur, the Sawants would have to go for assisting in it's conquest.

(3) They should keep themselves in touch with Shivaji through their Vakil; and fight against the Turks (Muslims) for the establishment of Swarajya.

(4) The officers of the Raja (Shivaji) would, from time to time, visit the territory for the assessment of revenue. These should be assisted in their work according to the orders of the Suzerain.

(5) The Lordship of the territory, the Jagirs (Watans) and the title of 'Bahadur' are confirmed forever. The forts, the Kots and the Thanas are to remain in the possession of the Sawants, but the officers of the Raja should also remain there.

This treaty of five articles was signed on 5th March 1659. This treaty shows that the country of Sawants was to be administered in the name of and for the benefit of Shivaji.[1]

Pitambar Shenavi, the envoy of Sawant, played a major part in concluding the treaty of friendship between

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1. Balkrishna, Shivaji, Vol.I, pp. 86-87

Shivaji and Sawant. During these negotiations Shivaji visited Kudal where he purchased a fine European Sword for 300 hons and named it the 'Bhawani'. He successfully used it in many an encounter. According to Sardesai it is still in the possession of his descendants at Satara.[1]

Early in 1663 the Shah of Bijapur started on an expedition, determined particularly to recover the territories of South Konkan from Shivaji. The presence of Adilshah cowed the Sawant as well as the Dutch factors of Vengurla and the Portuguese of Goa. When Shivaji came to know Adilshah's aggression, he entered Konkan region by way of Kolhapur and Kudal and reached Vengurla in May 1663.[2] His army of 4,000 horsemen and 10,000 footmen created great fear and panic among the inhabitants of Vengurla and Kudal.[3] Lakham Sawant sent his envoy to the Dutch at Vengurla with a proposal that the inhabitants of Vengurla, and the Dutch Governor should take shelter at Wadi. The Dutch factory Resident rejected this proposal, considering this treacherous scheme to murder him.[4] The Dutch sent one letter to Shivaji congratulating him on his new acquisition and some costly presents.[5] Thereupon, Shivaji gave letter of freedom for the merchants of Vengurla.[6]

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1. Sardesai, NHM, Vol. I, p. 122, footnote 3.
2. Factory Records Surat, Vol. 10, dt. 24 May 1663.
3. Balkrishna, op.cit., Vol. II, p. 92; Pingulkar, op.cit., Appendix pp. 9-13.
4. Balkrishna, op.cit., Vol. I, p. 92.
5. Ibid.,
6. Ibid., p. 93.

The Adilshah could not bear this direct affront to his power. He determined to recover Kudal from Shivaji and ordered Ikhlas Khan to march against Shivaji. He also asked his minister Khawaskhan to help Ikhlas Khan in this endeavour. Baji Ghorpade of Mudhol also was ordered to proceed against Kudal.[1]

Adilshah's plans came to a head during the autumn of 1664. Shivaji prepared himself. He thought of dismembering Ghorpade of Mudhol by attacking him suddenly at Mudhol. A fierce battle took place in which Baji Ghorpade and several of his followers lost their lives. Shivaji then plundered Mudhol. Shivaji immediately afterwards turned to Khawaskhan. The first encounter between them took place in October, 1664. During four hours everything seemed to go in favour of the Marathas. Prominent among those who killed were Hadrat Shah, Sidi Sarwar and Shaikh Miran. The day was, however, saved for the Bijapuris by the interruption of Khawaskhan. Shivaji left the field after losing 400 in killed and 1,000 wounded.[2] Shivaji withdrew from the field in pursuance of some plan. His plan was to attack Khawaskhan at Kudal from all sides. On the advice from Lakham Sawant Khawaskhan shifted in haste to Banda where he was attacked by Netaji Palkar. He untimately fled to Chandragarh in the Balaghat

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1. Sardesai, NHM, Vol. I, p. 151.
2. Bendre, op.cit., pp. 398-402.

leaving Lakham Sawant and other Bijapuri Vassals to save themselves as best as they could.[1]

Lakham Sawant, the double dealer, became the target of Shivaji's wrath. He lost his accumulated treasure and territory and took shelter in the nearby forests. His territory and office was transfered to his Kinsman and rival, Krishna Sawant by victorious Shivaji.[2]

The English merchants describe Shivaji's achievements as follows :

"Deccan and all the south coast are all embroilled in civil wars, king against king and country against country, and Shivaji reigns victoriously and uncontrolled, that he is a terror to all the kings and princes round about, daily increasing in strength".[3]

Shivaji routed Khawaskhan and established Maratha authority over the Konkan. Shivaji appointed Krishna Sawant as Deshmukh of Kudal on 11th November 1664.[4]

On 5th December 1664 Shivaji laid the foundation stone of his sea fortress, Sindhudurga. In the Shivaji Chronicle by Chitragupta, it is stated that "a hundred skilled workmen who knew about construction of sea forts were called for from the Portuguese" for the purpose.[5] The fort was constructed on the rocky inland six cosses in

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1. Varma, op.cit., p. 164.
2. Sabhasad, op.cit., pp. 69-70; Varma, op.cit., p. 165.
3. Factory Record, Surat Vol. 86, dated 26, November 1664.
4. Pingulkar, op.cit., p. 42.
5. Sane (Ed.,), Chitra Gupta Bakhar, p. 113.

length and breadth and about ten to twenty cubits above the sea level at that place a fort was built and it was, called Malwan (Sindhudurg).[1]

Sidis of Janjira and the Marathas

An Abyssinian family settled in the 15th century on the Konkan coast. Under the Sultans of Ahmednagar, one of them secured the Government of Danda Rajapuri.

The Sidi, Chief of Janjira, maintained an efficient fleet and throughout the 17th century he was officially recognised as the admiral, at first of Bijapur and later of the Mughal empire. There was no native power on the West Coast that could make a stand against him at sea.[2]

To the owner of the Konkan it was essential to render the Sidi powerless or to make him an ally. Shivaji, in his efforts to conquer Konkan, came across the Sidi of Danda Rajapuri. Realising that powerful Sidi with well equipped Naval fleet could not be defeated by him alone. Shivaji thought of getting assistance from the imprisoned English men at Rajapur. He promised them a seat called Meet Bunder if the English helped Shivaji against Rajapuri. But the English did not agree; so Shivaji during the monsoon of 1661 attacked Danda Rajapuri and captured it. He then started the siege of the island fort of Janjira; but he failed to make any impression on the citadel for want of

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1. Sen (ed.,), Life of Shivchhatrapati, p. 193.
2. Bombay Gazetteer, Vol. XI, pp. 416, 434.

guns and artillery men. The Chief of Janjira was so hard pressed by the losses inflicted upon him by Shivaji thatt he requested the authorities of Bombay to render him help. The Sidis[1] request was complied with by the English and attack of Shivaji was repulsed.

Revdanda and Rajapuri forts were in the possession of the Sidi. His fleet in the sea consisted of forty to fifty ships (Gurabs) and with it he plundered territories, obtained maintenance and preserved his lands. The Sidi began to molest the territory of Shivaji. So Shivaji sent a force of two thousand Mawles under his general Baji Pasalkar, and built sea going ships also. At this time Ali Adilshah II opened a campaign against Shivaji with the help of the Sidi. In this invasion of Konkan Kay Sawant, a loyal vassal of Bijapur, cooperated with the Sidi. In a battle both the Sawant and Baji Pasalkar, (Shivaji's general) fell dead. Their respective armies thereupon retired each to its own place.

To retrieve the position Shivaji next sent a larger force, five to seven thousand strong, under Raghunath Ballal Atre who beat the Sidi forces, captured Tala, Ghosala, and other forts, and wrested the sea coast upto Danda. The Marathas continued the campaign even during monsoon and after a long siege captured the fort of Danda and following up their success opened batteries against Janjira itself. But their attempt was defeated. Hopeless of relief from Bijapur, the Sidi signed a treaty with

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[1] Banaji, Bombay and the Sidis, pp. 11-12.

Shivaji and formally ceded Dandarajapuri. The Sidi could not reconcile with the loss. So hostilities soon broke out again. The Sidis resumed their depredations on the coast, while the Marathas fired upon Janjira every year during the dry season, without being able to take that island fortress. Shivaji organised his conquered territory on the coast into a province and placed under an able viceroy Vyankoji Dutto with a permanent contingent of 5 to 7,000 men.[1]

Vyankaji Dutto, the Subhedar of Konkan province defeated the Sidis in a great land battle and totally excluded them from the mainland. He also improved the defences of Dandarajapuri by fortifying a hill that commanded it. He also built new forts of Birwadi and Lingana which effectually prevented Sidi's depredations in that quarter. The Sidis had no alternative but to live on by piracing which he exercised on the sea coast villages in the Ratnagiri District. To defeat Sidi's cause of piracy Shivaji thought of building a strong navy and set up fo fortified bases along the coast.

The Portuguese were continually sending help to the Marathas against the Sidis. So in the beginning of the 1661, there was an attempt on the part of English to capture Janjira.[2]

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1. Sane (Ed.,), Sabhasad Bakhar, p. 66; Sarkar, Shivaji, p. 258.
2. Shiv Kalin Patra Sar Sangrah, Vol. I, L 844, 862; Banaji, op.cit., p. 9, Sarkar, Shivaji, p. 261.

Maratha Attacks On Janjira

Since then both the parties were on the war path. The hostile armies made almost daily inroads into each others countries and warfare closed the roads to all peaceful traffic. Shivaji attacked Janjira with great vigour in 1669 October. The Sidi was so much hard-pressed and Janjira was in so much in danger of being starved in to surrender that he sought the help of the English at Bombay.[1] The next year the contest came to a crisis. Shivaji staked all his resources on the capture of Janjira. Fatahkhan wanted to submit to Shivaji but there was a strong opposition in his court. They applied to Adilshah and the Mughal viceroy of the Deccan for aid. The Mughals readily agreed and the Sidi fleet was transferred from the overlordship of Bijapur to that of Delhi and Sidi Sambal, one of the leaders of the revolution, was appointed imperial admiral with a Mansab and a Jagir yielding 3 lakhs of rupees. The Sidi fleet was taken into Mughal service on the same terms as under Bijapur. The general title of Yakubkhan was conferred on successive Sidi admirals from this time onwards and the Government of Janjira was placed under another Sidi. The other Sidi captains preserved the distinct command over their own crews and dependents and an aristocratical council determined the general welfare of the singular republic. "

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[1] Sarkar, Shivaji, p. 262.

This revolution at Janjira took place in February 1671. Shortly before that, in November 1670 Shivaji collected at Nandgaon 10 miles north of Janjira 160 small vessels, 10,000 horse and 20,000 soldiers with full provisions for a seige. Large numbers of mining tools such as pick axes, shovels and crowbars were with him. The fleet left Nandgaon on 24th November and came to Mahim on 26th November.[1] Maratha army marched in the same direction by land but on the 26th he suddenly turned back and recalled his fleet. Thereafter he suddenly invaded Khandesh and Berar. He looted these provinces far and wide. During his absence on this raid, his fleet passed by Daman and his admiral had captured a large ship of that place, worth Rs. 12,000, bound for Surat. The Portuguese retaliated by capturing twelve of his ships. They pursued but the Maratha fleet escaped to Dabhol.[2] Sidi Qasim the new governor of Janjira was very brave and cunning. He increased his fleet and war material, strengthened his force and was cruising at Sea. He used to wear armour day and night and often seized enemy ships. He used to cut off hair of the captives. He recovered Danda from the Marathas while the Marathas were engaged in celebrating the spring carnival (Holi). Qasim arrived at the pier with 40 ships and Sidi Khariyat from a land side came with 500 men. On seeing Khariyat the Maratha garrison rushed at his direction to repel him. When Qasim found them engaged like this he seized the oppurtunity to scale the sea-wall. Some of his officers were hurled

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1. *Shiv Kalin Patra Sar Sangraha*, Vol.II, L 1362.
2. *Ibid*., L 1369; Kakodkar, *The Portuguese and the Marathas*, p. 36.

into the sea. Some were slain but the rest forced their way into the fort. Just then the powder magazine exploded, killing the Maratha commandant and several of his men.[1]

Qasim went ahead slaying and binding the enemy to the centre of the fort. Here he joined hands with Khariyat's party who defeated the Marathas and conquered the fort. At that time the Marathas were engaged in the Nasik and Baglan districts where the Moghul Viceroy was pressing them hard. Qasim seeing the opportunity of the absence of the Marathas, captured seven other forts in the neighbourhood of Danda.[2] Six of the Killedars got frightened and surrendered to Qasim. The seventh gave tough fight to Qasim for a week but came to terms on assuring safety of his life as well as lives of his kith and kins. On receiving possession of the fort Qasim became faithless. He converted handsome women and boys to Islam, dismissed useless and old women and put to death all the men of the garrison.[3]

The capture of Dandarajapuri by the Sidis was a disaster to the Marathas. Politically it was necessary for Shivaji to reconquer Danda. The Marathas incessantly fought for DandaRajapuri from the time of Shivaji to Rajaram but the fort remained in the possession of the Sidi. In an attempt to recover the fort the Marathas used to blockade

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1. Sarkar, Shivaji, p. 264.
2. Shiv Kalin Patra Sar Sangrah, Vol.II, L.1420.
3. Sarkar, op.cit., p. 264.

the Abyssinian State. The economic loss was more keenly felt by that State than the Marathas. At times the Sidis begged for peace but did not accept Maratha terms for ceding their territory.

In September 1671, Shivaji thought of getting help from the English and sent his envoy to Bombay to secure the aid in an attack on Danda. But the President and Council of Surat advised the Bombay factors "not to positively promise him the grenades, mortar pieces and ammunition he desires, nor to absolutely deny him, in regard we do not think it convenient to help him against Danda which place if it were in his possession would prove a great annoyance to the port of Bombay".[1]

In May 1671, Shivaji besieged Dandarajapuri. The position of the Sidi had much worsened. The Sidi requested the Portuguese at Chaul to help him with money and ammunition. The Portuguese Viceroy asked the captain of Chaul to supply money and instructed that ammunition should be secretly given to the Sidi as he thought that if Dandarajapuri were captured by Shivaji, not only would Revdanda and Korlai (Morro) be endangered, but the whole Western Coast. The importance of this place was recognised by the Portuguese statesmen right from the days of Afonso De Albuquerque.[2]

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[1] Sarkar, Shivaji, p. 265.

[2] Parvate, op.cit., p. 40.

Naval War, 1672-1675

In 1672, after the overthrow of Fateh Khan, Sidi Sambal became admiral. He was an enterprising person, for he was continually engaged in warfare with the Marathas and burnt several houses in Mazgaon. In the same year Sidi Sambal died and was succeeded by Sidi Yakutkhan who was equally energetic. He was continually interfering with Maratha shipping and in October 1672 anchored with a fleet off Bombay and begged of the President his permission to enter the harbour in order to ravage the districts of Panvel, Pen and Alibag which belonged to Shivaji. The permission was refused by the President.[1]

Although the English refused to help the Sidis, Aurangzeb came to the rescue of the Sidi. He sent a fleet of 36 vessels, great and small from Surat to assist the Sidi of Dandarajapuri by causing diversion by Sea.[2] The Mughal squadron burnt and plundered all sea ports in the possession of Shivaji by destroying his 500 trading boats.[3]

After its successful campaign against the Marathas, the Mughal fleet visited Bombay for help against the Marathas. But the English refused to get charged in the dispute between the Marathas and the Mughal. However, the Dutch commodore promised Shivaji help of the entire Dutch fleet of 22 ships in retaking Dandarajapuri on condition that Shivaji would lend 3,000 of his soldiers for a Dutch attempt to conquer Bombay. Shivaji, however, did not trust the Dutch and continued to remain friendly with the Englsih.[1]

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[1] Banaji, op.cit., p. 15.

[2] Sarkar, Shivaji, p. 265.

[3] Ibid.,

On the 10th of October 1673, Sidi Sambal with his fleet entered the Bombay harbour without seeking permission from the English and laid waste the Pen and Nagothana rivers in the Kurla region belonging to Shivaji.[2]

Sidi Sambal caused much unnecessary bloodshed and brought with him to Bombay a number of men, women and children from Kurla who had been made slaves. The merchants were also disturbed to some extent. So the President expressed his indignation to Sidi. Inspite of the President's indignation the Sidi renewed his terrorist activities in Kurla till one hundred of Sidi's men were surprised and cut to pieces without mercy by the troops of Shivaji which had arrived from Raigad.[3] It seems that after this event Sidi was quiet.

In February 1674, a war took place between Shivaji and Sidi till both of them became weary. So the Sidi requested the English President at Surat to mediate a peace between them.[4]

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[1] Banaji, op.cit., pp. 16-17.

[2] Orme, Historical fragments of Hindustan, p. 39.

[3] Banaji, op.cit., p. 19.

[4] Sarkar, Shivaji, p. 267.

In March 1674, Shivaji's admiral Daulatkhan was attacked by Sidi Sambal in the Muchkundi creek in the Ratnagiri District. Both the admirals were wounded. The Sidi lost 100 men, wheareas the Marathas lost 44 men. The Marathas became victorious. So Sidi Sambal withdrew to Harishwar, a port 21 miles south of Janjira.[1]

In May (1674) Shivaji resolved to capture Dandarajapuri at any cost. He started daily sending down more artillery, ammunition, men and money to strengthen his siege-troops. During this year he reduced the whole coast of South Konkan from Rajapuri to Bardes, north of Goa, but not the fort of Dandarajapuri. By the end of 1672 he had already spent a vast treasure and 15,000 soldiers in his futile attacks on Janjira.[2]

Shivaji did not rest. In September 1675 he contemplated to attack the fort of Dandarajapuri by land and Sea. He increased his fleet. In November, the Sidi had reinforcements in his fleet and sailed down the coast to Vengurla, plundering and burning that town. Maratha warships from Vijaydurg and Rajapur took to the sea, seeking a fight, but the Sidi escaped to Janjira.[3]

Henry Oxinden, a British envoy to the Marathas established good relations with Shivaji. Due to his efforts

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1. Sarkar, Shivaji, p. 267.
2. Ibid.
3. Orme, op.cit., pp. 49, 53.
   Sarkar, Shivaji, p. 268.

the English and Shivaji had arrived at a settlement of their differences and Oxinden offered to bring about peace between Shivaji and the Sidis.[1]

But his efforts proved abortive. In September 1674 Aurangzeb had returned from the Indus to Delhi as the Afgan war (1675) was in its last stages. He urged his General Bahadurkhan to proceed without delay against Shivaji.[2] He also supplied the Sidi two hundred fighting men, provisions and ammunition, several frigates and two large warships.[3] At the same time, the English were helping the Sidis of Dandarajapuri still at war with Shivaji on condition that none of his people would encroach on the rights of the British or plunder or disturb in the least any boat or vessel from Underi, Khanderi and Chaul.[4] It was in the middle of November (1675) that the Sidi intended to be on the look out for Shivaji's fleet, hoping to destroy it in the port. But they were disappointed. At this time, Sidi Sambal had to face some difficulties due to internal dissentions. Sidi Sambal who was anchoring at the Bombay port in April 1676 was superseded as commander of the Sidi's fleet by Sidi Kasim and in July 1676 the whole of the Sidi fleet under the command of Sidi Kasim came to Bombay.[5]

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1. Banaji, op.cit., p. 22.
2. Orme, op.cit., p. 44.
3. Banaji, op.cit., p. 23.
4. Ibid.
5. Forrest, Home Series, Vol. I, p. 95.

Sidi Kasim was received by the English with respect and allowed to stay at Mazgaon with his vessels. They continued to reside there till the middle of August when Moropant Pingle, Prime Minister of Shivaji, came down the Ghats with 10,000 men to renew his attack on Janjira. To face this attack Sidi Kasim went to Janjira with 300 men and managed to destroy the floating batteries of Moropant Pingale, and compelled him to retire to Raigad.[1]

Meanwhile, Aurangzeb gave orders from Delhi to hand over the Mughal fleet to Sidi Kasim. Thereupon Sidi Sambal promised to carry out this order. Towards the end of April 1677, the fleet of Sidi Kasim and Sidi Sambal arrived from Janjira in Bombay.[2]

The first intimation which the English received from Shivaji during that year was threatening message concerning the Sidi's atrocities which he had perpetrated on the inhabitants of the opposite shore. This was done because of instigation to Sidi Sambal by a wicked resident of the opposite shore. The wicked Brahmin was supplied with money for hiring a boat and a party of men. On receiving help from Sidi four Brahmins were kidnapped and transported to the Sidi's ships and kept in close confinement. When the English found Sidi's complicity in transaction, the boats crew were imprisoned, three of their number were hanged, and others sent to St. Helena.[3]

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1. Orme, op.cit., pp. 57-58.
2. Banaji, op.cit., p. 26.
3. Ibid.

In November 1677 Sidi Kasim, in his capacity as commander of the fleet, continued cruising along the shore of Konkan, making frequent landings and kidnapping the people. All of them (including the Brahmin prisoners) were forced to do menial services. At the end of April 1678 he returned to Bombay to rest during the monsoons. Shivaji avenged the humiliation on his subjects by deputing his admirals Daulatkhan and Daryasarang with 4000 men to Panvel with orders to cross the creek and burn the Sidi fleet then anchored at Mazgaon in Bombay island. But due to unfavourable weather Daulatkhan could not cross the creek. So he retired to Raigad. Sidi Kasim sent his boats and plundered the Alibag coast.

In October 1678, Shivaji was furiously playing his batteries upon Janjira, while Sidi Kasim, being unable to pay his men at Surat, was compelled to continue his stay in the Bombay harbour.[1]

For seven years Shivaji had been making efforts to increase his fleet so as to be a match for the Sidis and by this time he gathered 20 masted ghurabs and 40 gallivats. On the high seas, these vessels could not give a very good account of themselves against the great ships of the fleet of Sidi Kasim.[2]

Shivaji was of the opinion that his repeated failure to capture Janjira and the Sidis' attack on his territory was due to the shelter given by the English to the Sidis in the Bombay harbour. Therefore, he resolved to compel the English to adhere to stricter form of neutrality. He then got control of the islands of Henry and Khanderi as a convenient place for striking at the Sidis.[1] The presence of the Marathas at Khanderi was in every way undesirable for the English, particularly for those at Bombay, for no ship could enter or leave from Bombay harbour without being seen from Khanderi. Thereupon, the English became aware of the impending danger. So the English decided to help the Sidis to check Shivaji. Sidi Kasim was equally anxious to preserve his stronghold at Jangira. He also got necessary help from the English to equip his fleet.[2]

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[1] Orme, op.cit., pp. 67-72;
Anderson, The English in Western India, p. 81.

[2] Ibid., p. 78; Banaji, op.cit., p. 29.

Sidi Kasim brought his force consisting of two large ships, three frigates of masts, fifteen stout gallivats and 700 excellent soldiers at the Bombay harbour and proposed to the English a combined assault on Khanderi to eject the Marathas. The English suspected the design of the Sidis to keep the island for themselves and hence they evaded giving assistance to the Sidis. Sidi Kasim was not disappointed because the English did not render him assistance. From his two ships he directed for several days a cannonade against the island of Kanheri. The fire was returned by the Marathas but no appreciable effect was produced, by either side on the other. This was the state of affairs between the English,

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[1] Banaji, op.cit., p. 29.

[2] Ibid., p. 30.

Shivaji and the Sidis at the end of the year 1679.

Before Shivaji, Konkan was under Bijapur Sultanate and the sea side was under the control of the Portuguese. By now Shivaji realised the importance of building up navy. Therefore, after gaining the town of Kalyan and Bhivandi (1658) Shivaji started building ships of his own in the creek below them. Soon after his conquest of the Konkan, Shivaji found it necessary to expand his navy strong enough to check the raids of the Sidi's fleet on his coast. In his view without the command of the coastal waters his inland territories could not be protected nor the economic prosperity of his subjects assured.[1]

As stated by Nairne, the great forts both on the coast of Konkan and inland are entirely associated with Shivaji.[2] Some of them are naval forts. The forts on the coast were meant for the navy and they had naval bases for the safe anchorage of ships. They were well equipped with water tanks, store houses, powder magazines etc. and were well armed and garrisoned. With the help of naval forts Shivaji built up a fine navy. During the time of naval battles, they supplied war requirements and they were places of refuge to the navy. The ships, anchored in the bay of the forts were safe from enemy attack in naval engagements. The forts played a significant role in the effective control of the mastery of the sea around them. The gun and artillery mounted on the

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1. Sarkar, op.cit., p. 244.
2. Nairne, op.cit., pp. 73-74.

forts could repulse the enemy ships from entering the sea or the river on which they stood.

With regard to other forts, there is scarcely an instance of one of these standing on level and open ground. They are all built on some natural post of advantage.

The construction of all the forts is on the same principles. The whole top of the hill or the end of the promontory is surrounded by a wall relieved by numerous bastions. There is seldom more than one entrance to the fort and this is generally the strongest part and the most noticeable.

Finally there are noticeable features of Shivaji's forts such as a small shrine with an image of Hanuman, the monkey God, standing just inside the main gate.[1]

Before Shivaji, the Portuguese built a number of naval forts on the Konkan coast. The credit of constructing the forts of Bassein, Bombay, Asheri, Manora and Chaul goes to the Portuguese. Shivaji rebuilt a naval fort of Vijaydurg popularly known as Gheria in 1653. An island fortress of Suvarnadurg was also constructed by Shivaji.

To the south-west of Alibag, about a furlong from the shore, is the low fortified fort of Kolaba. It is mentioned as one of Shivaji's forts.[2] When the whole of the Konkan south of Kalyan came into the possession of Shivaji in 1662, he rebuilt and strengthened Kolaba for defence.[3]

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[1] Nairne, op.cit., p. 74.

[2] Hamilton's New Account, I, p. 243; Kolaba Gazetteer, p.703.

[3] Khafikhan, Elliot and Dowson, VII, pp. 299, 355.

He made the harbour one of the chief naval stations. He gave the command of his fleet to Daryasarang and Maynak Bhandari under whom Kolaba became a naval Centre. To put a stop to the ravages of Maratha fleet, the Portuguese sent an ambassador to Shivaji who promised to refrain from molesting their ships if he was supplied with guns and war stores. To this the Portuguese agreed.[1]

In Kolaba District along with a number of important places Shivaji seized Chaul, an ancient port on the coast of Kolaba. The fort of Chaul was constructed by the Portuguese in 1521. The fort was surrounded by a wall with nine bastions and enough fortifications. Thevenot describes "Chaul as very hard to enter but very safe, sheltered from every kind of weather.[2] The town was pretty and was defended by a strong citadel on the top of the hill. By 1672 Shivaji's troops utterly ruined Musalman Chaul and finally took possession of it."[3] The fort Ghosalgad, six miles south of Roha, was captured by Shivaji along with Javali from More. When all afforts proved abortive to capture fort Janjira by assult from the Sidi. Shivaji fortified Khanderi and built a fort on it. It was a strong fort on the sea shore constructed by Shivaji. In Khalapur Peta of the present Raigad district, there is a Prabal fort situated on the flat-topped hill of the same name.[4] It is eight miles

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1. Grant Duff, History of Mahrattas, Vol. I, p. 158.
2. Thevenot, Voyages, V, pp. 248-49.
3. Da Cunha, op.cit., p. 67.
4. Shivaji Souvenir, p. 71.

east of Panvel and four miles west of Matheran. It stands about 2,325 feet above sea level. It is believed that Shivaji found substantial treasure in the fort when he captured the fort from the Mughals.[1] The celebrated fort of Raigad became capital of Maratha kingdom in 1674. In June 1674 Shivaji was crowned with much spendour at Raigad. It stands 2,851 feet above the sea, sixteen miles north of Mahad in Raigad District.

Forts in Ratnagiri District are either situated in the interior or on the coast. The costal forts are of two classes, island and headland forts. Of island forts, the chief are the Harnai fort of Suvarnadurg and Sindhudurg fort of Malvan. Shivaji repaired the naval fort of Suvarnadurg in 1660. Vijaydurg, popularly known as Gheria, is the most perfect example of a great coastal fortress, which was also a palace or a residence of a chief. It stands on the piece of land projecting into the broad estuary of river Vaghotan.[2] It had a ditch extended across the spit of land. The outer walls are washed by the sea round the greatest part of their extent. The walls are immensely massive and lofty, and thus "Looking up from the landing place a triple line of most formidable defences is seen. On one side a great round tower rises from the highest part of the main wall. From it the view is lovely and varied. In front the open sea, one one side the broad estuary, and on the other a little cove of white sand bounded by black rocky promonotories. Behind, the river stretches away to the blue line of the western Ghats.[1] The river runs paralled to the sea and the mouth forms a haven. The ships moved in the river were concealed from the open sea. The heavier ships of the European nations, even if they chased the Maratha fleet, could not follow them up the river.[2]"

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[1] Maharashtra State Gazetteers - Kolaba District, p. 920.

[2] Maharashtra State Gazetteers - Ratnagiri District, p. 814.

The most striking example of Shivaji's island fortress is of Suvarnadurg or Songad. It has lofty walls risen straight out of the sea. It stands on a low irregular island with an area or eight acres. Great part of the fortifications are cut out of solid rock and the rest are built of blocks of stone of ten or twelve feet square. There is enough water for a large garrison.[3]

Of headland forts, most of them are on the banks of rivers. Out of these the major ports are Bankot, Anjanvel or Gopalgad, Govalkot, Jaygad, Ratnagiri, Purnagad, Satvli, Rajapur, Jaitapur, Vijaydurg, Kharepatan, Devgad, Bhagwantgad, Ramgad, Sidhgad, Nivti, Vengurla and Redi.[4] The sites of a few of these, such as Anjanvel or Gopalgad, Jaygad and Rajapur are very little raised above sea level. Inland forts, all the same in character, are built on some natural site of advantage. If on the coast, on a cliff or a spit of land more than half surrounded by the sea, if in the low country,

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1. Nairne, op.cit., p. 74.
2. Sarkar, Shivaji, pp. 247-48.
3. Bombay Gazetteer, part X, p. 367;
   Sarkar, op.cit., p. 248.
4. Sardesai (Ed.), Shivaji Souvenier, pp. 66-90.

on some steep hill commanding a river or pass, if on the Ghats, on some projecting spur or rock or above a great natural scarp. All are built on the same principle.[1]"

The age of most forts is difficult to fix. Some are said to have been built by Bhoj Raja of Parnala at the end of the twelth century.[2] But the most are repaired and strengthened in the 17th century by Shivaji.[3]

Shivaji, more than any other ruler, attached great importance to the forts. "Every pass was commanded by forts and in the closed defiles, every steep and over hanging rock was held as a station from which to roll great masses of stores, a most effectual annoyance to the labouring march of cavalry, elephants and carriages. It is said that he left 350 of these posts in the Konkan alone.[4]"

Sindhudurg of Malwan

Shivaji himself built a sea fort of Sindhudurg on a low island about a mile from the shore of Malwan. This was Shivaji's fortress and coast capital. It is less striking but more extensive than Suvernadurg, measuring about two miles around the ramparts. The walls are 29 to 30 feet high and about 12 feet thick, strengthened with 32 towers. The site of the fort was selected by Shivaji himself and he is said to have worked with his own hands for its construction.

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1. Nairne, op.cit., pp. 73-74.
2. Ibid., p. 19.
3. Ibid.
4. Orme, op.cit., p. 93.

Here are shown the prints of his hands and feet on a stone slab, held in reverence and protected by a small dome.[1]

Shivaji's navy played an important role on the Konkan coast. He made a separate department called Subha Armar. Soon after his conquest of the Konkan, Shivaji found it necessary to organise a navy strong enough to check up the raids of the Sidi's fleet on his coast. The main strength of the Maratha fleet consisted in the gallivats and the gurabs as well as many river crafts of various descriptions.

Sabhasad tells us that no less than four hundred Gurabs, Tarandes, Tarus, Gallivats, Shibads and Pagars were built and organised into two squadrons of 200 vessels.[2] Each squadron was placed under the supreme command of an admiral - Darya Sarang, a Muhammadan officer and Mai-Naik, a Bhandari. In all probability Shivaji's men of war did not exceed 200 in number, but he had a large mercantile navy. Besides doing the police work against the Sidi's pirate fleet, Shivaji's navy was also employed in taking possession of foreign vessels wrecked on the Konkan coast and collecting duties from trading ships.[3]

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1. Bombay Government Political Department Diary, No. 386 of 1812, pp. 1516-18.
2. Sabhasad, p. 68; Sen, Shivchhatrapati, pp. 93-94; Robert Orme gives the strength of Shivaji's fleet in 1675 as fifty seven sail, of which fifteen were grabs, the rest gallivats, all crowded with men. Orme, op.cit., p. 53.
3. Rajwade, MIS, Vol. VIII, pp. 21-23.

On his return from Agra, Shivaji directed his energies to consolidate his power in the Konkan and to effect a revenue settlement there.[1] He informed the Emperor that he escaped from his confinement for fear of his life, that he had no illwill towards him personally, and that he was still ready to serve the Emperor as he had stipulated.[2] The veteran Jaisingh, the Subhedar of Deccan was recalled by the Emperor. On his way to Delhi Jaisingh died at Burhanpur on 2.7.1667.[3] His place in the Deccan was taken by the easy-going prince Muazzam. Muazzam and his capable assistant Dilir Khan were not on good terms. This gave a golden opportunity to Shivaji to recover his lost dominion. Shivaji had already written to the Deccan Subhedar Jaisingh, " If through your intercession I am pardoned, I shall send my son Sambha to wait on the prince and serve at the head of my followers wherever required.[4]" Muazzam on his resuming at Aurangabad as a Subhedar of the Deccan welcomed Shivaji's offer to serve the emperor, knowing well that it was not possible to crush him. Aurangzeb was also compelled by the force of circumstances to acquiesce in a truce with the Marathas negotiated by Muazzam. A letter of Prince Muazzam dated 6th March 1668, informed Shivaji that the emperor

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1. Sardesai, N.H.M., Vol. I, p. 182.
2. Ibid.
3. S.R. Sharma, op.cit., p. 160.
4. Sardesai, op.cit., Vol. I, p. 182.

had conferred on him the title of Rajah and that his other demands were under consideration.[1] Thus the truce was concluded by the Mughals with Shivaji which lasted two years (from 4th November 1667 to December 1669) and by which Shivaji secured Emperor's blessings for his new acquisition in Konkan.

In September 1667 a treaty of agreement was concluded between Shivaji and the Adilshah. Thus by his peculiar method of securing substantial interests Shivaji became de-facto ruler of Konkan. His relations with Bijapur also remained pacific.

The Coronation of Shivaji

Konkan witnessed the coronation of Shivaji at Raigad in 1674. According to *Shivdigvijaya*, the coronation was necessited by the attitude of some old Maratha Sardars like Shirke, Mohite and Mahadik who refused to sit below Shivaji even in his court claiming equality in rank and family honour from old customs. It was Balaji Avaji who had advised the ceremonial coronation.[2]

Most of the Maratha nobles had the long established traditions of being addressed as 'Rajas', but this did not mean actual kingship. The coronation ceremony had not been celebrated since the days of the ancient Guptas.

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1. Sharma, *op.cit*., p. 160.
2. S.N. Sen, *Life of Sivachhatrapati*, p. 241.

Shivaji had conquered many lands and gathered much wealth. He defeated four Patshahs and had a strong army and navy and exercised powers of life and death over men, like an independent sovereign.[1] But in the view of the M Mughal emperor, he was a mere robber. To Adilshah he was a son of Vassal Jagirdar. The rise of Bhonsles created jualousy among the other Maratha families which had once been their equal in several ways. These men refused to respect Shivaji as their master.[2] So Shivaji decided to get himself crowned.

It was decided to perform the coronation in a grand manner. As such preparations were taken in hand. For coronation, Raigad Fort, near Mahad in the Konkan was selected.[3] Shivaji had not only loved the Raigad Fort but had selected it for its impregnability. So the ceremony was arranged there and new palaces and halls were built on it. Many noble guests and eleven thousand Brahmins came in advance for the ceremony and they were well looked after. Gaga Bhatt, insisted on Shivaji getting himself crowned according Vedic rites.[4] The Ceremony was performed for seven days during which Shivaji had to go through many rites.

Several nobles, kings and ambassadors came to Raigad. Among them were Henry Oxenden, representing the East India Company. The Portuguese ambassador and the Dutch representative were also present.

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1. Sane, Sabhasad Bakhar, p. 82.
2. Sarkar, Shivaji, pp. 201-202.
3. Avalaskar, Raigadchi Jeevan Katha, p. 26.
4. Bendrey, Coronation, p. 29.

There were four Brahmans who had seen and heard of some of the necessary performances, and they were asked to bring together their several knowledge of the ceremony and to counsel how to prepare for it. But they pointed out the great name of Gaga Bhatta who was at Kasi, a Brahman of very great attainments. He was wekk versed in the Vedas therefore it was pointed out to the Raja that if the preparations were made according to his directions, there would be none to object to the ceremony. The Raja was also advised by his counsel that somebody should be sent to Gaga Bhatta to obtain from him the Sastrik injunctions and that it would be well to get the ceremony performed by him. The Raja was highly pleased. He directed Ramchandra Babaji to go to meet Gaga Bhatta at Kashi with his letters and explain his mission.[1] Accordingly Ramchandra Babaji went to Kashi and met Gaga Bhatta and delivered Shivaji's letter.

Thereupon, the Bhatta consulted several Brahmans of the place, great and small, and came to the conclusion that only the Kshatriyas were entitled to Chhatra and Sinhasan; the Sudras were not. But Gaga Bhatta was convinced that he who has power becomes king. Gaga Bhatta agreed to lead the coronation ceremony.[2]

Gaga Bhatta came to Maharashtra and in consultations with all ministers and elders fixed the coronation day on

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[1] Sen, op.cit., p. 242.

[2] Ibid., pp. 242-43.

Jestha Suddha Trayodashi, Shake 1596.[1] Raje visited Bhawani Temple at Pratapgad and other temples and Shrines in his territory. This was a very old custom. The day before the coronation, Shivaji spent the time in fasting, prayers and meditation. He rose early next morning and had a ceremonial bath. Then he offered his respect to Jijabai and other elders and sought their blessings. Two important coronation rituals are the Abhishek and Chatradharan. Shivaji was dressed in white robes for the Abhishek and his queen Soyarabai had her saree knotted to his robe as they do at marriage ceremonies. They sat side by side on two 'Pats' or low stools and Sambhaji sat close behind them for the rituals called Aindrishanti.[2] Shivaji's council of eight ministers led by the Chief Minister Moro Pant Pingale and others representing the four castes, namely Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas and Shudras, stood around them holding golden, silver, brass and earthen jugs respectively, filled with sacred water of the Ganga and other holy rivers. The priests chanted Mantras and Pancharati was performed by the sixteen Suvasinis.[3]

For the coronation proper Shivaji was dressed in rich, red robes. They were embroidered with gold and he wore a turban with strings of pearls on it. There were precious jewels in his ears and round his neck.[4] He once more bowed before the priests and the mother Jijabai who blessed her successful son and shed tears of joy.[1]

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[1] Sane, Sabhasad, p. 82. (**6th June 1674**)
[2] Bendrey, Coronation, p. 46.
[3] Ibid., pp. 47, 50.
[4] Ibid., pp. 48-49.

The coronation hall was bedecked in rich velvet, brocade and pearls. Its walls were covered with sacred Vedic signs and symbols. The throne was covered with sacred Vedic signs and symbols. The throne was covered with gold plate inlaid with costly gems. The palace gates and grounds were decorated with green Banana and Mango leaves. Two ceremonial horses and two richly decorated elephants stood guard at the gates while the Shahnai, Nagara and other musical instruments were played for the occasion.[2]

Guns fired

As Shivaji mounted the throne, guns were fixed from all his forts for salute to the new king. Gaga Bhatta came forward with the royal umbrella, made of brocade and decorated with pearls. He held it over Shivaji's head and the people held him as king. The coronation ritual was over. To his nobles, officials and followers Shivaji gave traditional Indian titles in place of the Persian ones which they had used upto then.[3]

After that Chhatrapati Shivaji mounted his horse and went in procession to the Jagadishwar Temple in Raigad fort. From there he mounted his elephant and rode in state

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1. Sardesai, Shakkarta Shivaji, p. 161;
   N.H.M, Vol. I, pp. 212-213.
2. Kale, E R S, p. 375, L. 486; Bendrey, Coronation, p.39.
3. Sane, Sabhasad Bakhar, p. 84.

through the streets of the fort while the people hailed him as king.[1] Thus, the Jagirdar of Pune became an independent king known as Chhatrapati of Hindavi Swarajya.

Shivaji's coronation in 1674 was considered a great event all over Maharashtra. The English envoy - Oxendon[2], the interpreter of the English - Narayan Shenvi, and the Dutch merchant of Vengurla, Abraham le Feber, have left descriptions of this event.

After the coronation, Shivaji captured Fonda fort on 17th April 1675 by fixing a mine; then in the next month, he captured Shiveshwar and Ankola in Karwar and returned to Raigad. In 1677 Shivaji went to Bhaganagar and met the Qutub Shah.[4] He did not return to Konkan till April 1678, and in the meantime Annaji Datto, the Pant Sachiv, was left in charge of the Konkan from Kalyan to Fonda. He appointed officers to every district and made a survey and assessment of land on fair and equitable principles.[5] In the absence of Shivaji the usual operations on the coast were continued. In 1677-78, the Sidi's fleet plundered the coast as usual. In revenge for this, Shivaji sent down ships and men to Panvel in order to burn the Mussalman fleets then in Bombay.[6]

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1. Sarkar, Shivaji, p. 210.
2. Kale, E.R.S.Oxindens narrative, No. 486, p. 375; Dutch Records, Dagh Register, Vol. XXXIV, Letter No. 841 of 13th October 1674.; Bendrey, Coronation, p. 42; Balkrishna, Shivaji, Vol. II, Part I, p. 32.
3. Shivaji Souvenir, Jedhe Chronology, p. 21.
4. Ibid.
5. Jervis, Konkan, p. 93; Nairne, op.cit., p. 71.
6. Nairne, op.cit., p. 71.

Thereafter, Shivaji built a fort at Khanderi in 1679. The presence of Marathas at Khanderi was in every way undesirable for the English. In order to dislodge the Marathas from Khanderi, the English opened fire. Thus, the battle with the English was fought on 18th October, 1679.[1] The Sidi occupied Underi in January 1680. The English made a treaty with Shivaji in the same month.[2] This is the last event of Shivaji's life in Konkan. He died at Raigad on April 3, 1680. His revenue system was a great improvement than the one previously known in the Konkan. The cultivators were protected and all classes of the population had the opportunity of entering and rising in the military service.[3] Shivaji, with the help of his navalships, brought the Western coast under his control. So he was called the Sea King. He constructed and repaired coastal forts. Therefore he became known as king of the forts, He had his capital in the Konkan due to which he was called king of the Konkan.

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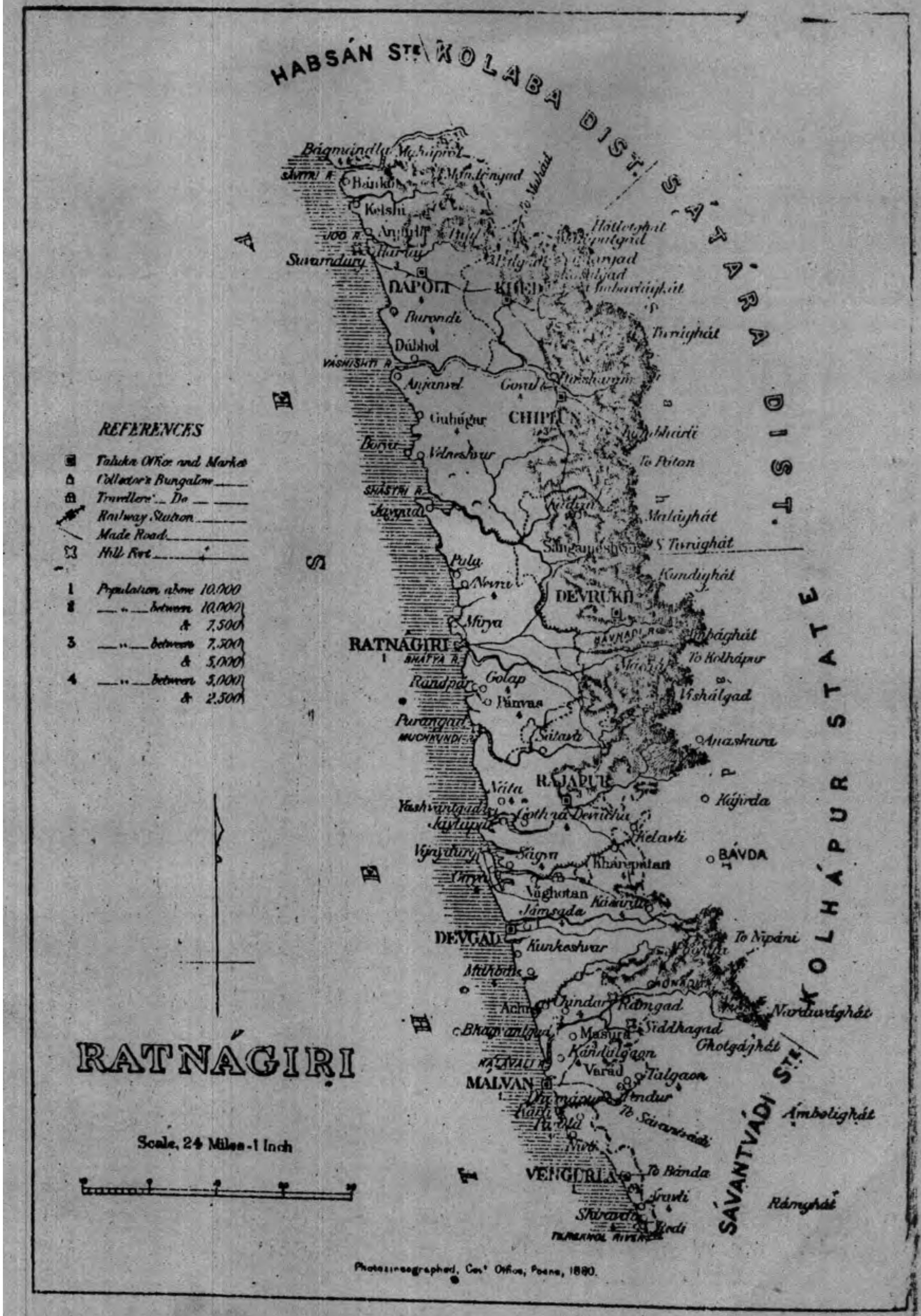
1. Sarkar, Shivaji, pp. 272-73.
2. Nairne, op.cit., p. 72; Patra Sar Sangrah, Vol. II, L. 2077.
3. Nairne, op.cit., p. 73.


HABSÁN STᴱ
KOLABA DIST.
SÁTÁRA DIST.
KOLHÁPUR STATE
SÁVANTVÁDI STᴱ
ARABIAN SEA
REFERENCES
Taluka Office and Market
Collector's Bungalow
Travellers' Do
Railway Station
Made Road
Hill Fort
1 Population above 10,000
2 between 10,000 & 7,500
3 between 7,500 & 5,000
4 between 5,000 & 2,500
Bágmándla
Máhápral
Mandangad
Bánkot
Kelshi
Anjarle
Harnai
Suvarndurg
DAPOLI
KHED
Burondi
Dábhol
VÁSHISHTI R.
Anjanvel
Guhágar
CHIPLUN
Borya
Velneshvar
SHÁSTRI R.
Jaygad
Sangameshvar
Pule
Nevra
DEVRUKH
Mirya
RATNÁGIRI
BHÁTYE R.
Randpur
Golap
Pávas
Purangad
MUCHKUNDI R.
Sátavli
RÁJÁPUR
Nate
Yashvantgad
Jaytápur
Vijaydurg
Sáundal
Kharepátan
Vághotan
Jámsanda
DEVGAD
Kunkeshvar
Mithbáv
Achra
Bhagvantgad
Masura
Kandalgaon
Varád
MALVAN
Talgaon
Hindur
Párule
VENGURLA
Shiroda
To Mahád
Hátlotghát
Tivrighát
To Pátan
Maláyghát
Kundighát
To Kolhápur
Vishálgad
Anaskura
Kájirda
BÁVDA
To Nipáni
Nardavighát
Ghotgáy Ghát
To Sávantvádi
Ámboli Ghát
To Bánda
Rámghát
TEREKHOL RIVER
RATNÁGIRI
Scale, 24 Miles - 1 Inch
Photozincographed, Govᵗ Office, Poona, 1880.

CHAPTER III

THE MARATHA STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL (1680-1797)

As Konkan witnessed the coronation of Shivaji the great at Raigad, it also witnessed the sad demise of the great Maratha king at Raigad on Sunday, 15th Chaitra in 1602 of the Salivahan Shaka era (3rd April 1680 A.D.).[1] Then the king's body was cremeted with sandal wood and belwood at Raigad. Everybody lamented the loss. It was then settled that the funeral rites should be performed by the younger son, Rajaram. Accordingly he performed the rites. It was also declared by Moropant Pingle, the Peshwa of Shivaji,[2] that Rajaram had succeeded to the throne of Shivaji and that Sambhaji would be imprisoned.[3]

After that Peshwa Moropant Pingle, Annaji Datto and others had left Raigad to proceed against Sambhaji, on 16th May, 1680. In their absence the supporters of Sambhaji tried to bring Raigad under their control byccreating some trouble there. But the supporters of Rajaram seemed to have arrested them and defeated their attempt.[4]

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1. Vakaskar, (Ed.), Sabhasad Bakhar, p.112.
2. Sen, Life of Shiv Chhatrapati, p.152.
   According to Kanujabata (constitution) the Peshwa was Prime-minister next to the King Shivaji and was at the Head of both the Civil and Military administration. Sanadapatre, (1913), pp.122-124.
3. Shiv Charitra Pradip, p.30.
4. Shivapur Daftaratil Yadi, p.53.

But Peshwa Moropant Pingle and Annaji Datto were captured by Senapati Hambirrao Mohite surrendered to him. So he disarmed them and sent them in chain to Sambhaji.[1] Sambhaji confined them at Panhala under a rigorous watch. Sambhaji then marched on Raigad with a force of twenty thousand men and got possession of the capital on 18th June and formally ascended the throne on 20th July after putting Rajaram and Soyara Bai, his mother in close confinement.[2] Sambhaji also appointed new Subhedar at Rajapur in Konkan.[3]

In gratitude for this easy success, Sambhaji immediately made a formal grant to his family goodess Bhavani of ten thousand gold Hons a year.[4] The formal ceremony of Coronation was performed on 10th January 1681. The disturbed atmosphere of Maharashtra in general and Konkan in particular soon assumed its normal peaceful tenor.[5]

After becoming the Chhatrapati, Sambhaji made some changes in the administrative structure. Although he released Moropant at the Manchakarohan ceremony,[6] he got the work of Peshwa done through Mutalik (Deputy) of Moropant upto the time of his death in October 1680. After the death of Peshwa

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1. Shiv Charitra Pradip, Jedhe Shakavali, p.30.
2. Sen, English Records on Shivaji, Part II, No.503, p.311.
3. Ibid., No.509, p.313; B.I.S.M., Sambhajikalin Patra Sar Sangrah, p.102.
4. Sardesai, New History of the Marathas, Part I, p.294.
5. Ibid., p.294.
6. Sardesai, Ugraprakriti Sambhaji, pp.30-31.

Moropant Pingle, Sambhaji gave the post of the Peshwa to Moropant's son, Nilopant, by setting him free from the confinement.[1] He also released Annaji Datto and instead of restoring him to his previous position of the Sachiv (Finance Minister), gave him the post of the Amatya or the Mujumdar (Revenue Minister).[2] Sambhaji continued Pralhad Niraji in the post of the Nyayadhish (the Chief Judge), which he had held under Chhatrapati Shivaji.[3] The post of Panditrao (Minister for Religion) was held by Moreswar Raghunath since 1672 under Shivaji. Chhatrapati Sambhaji continued him in the same post.[4] Hambirrao Mohite, the Senapati or Sarnobat (Commander-in-Chief) of Chhatrapati Shivaji who became the benefactor of Sambhaji was continued by him in that post.[5]

Akbar's flight to Sambhaji in Konkan :- Akbar, a son of Emperor Aurangzeb, fled with Durgadas Rathod of Rajputna to Deccan to take shelter with Sambhaji.[6] Prince Akbar addressed two letters to Sambhaji requesting him to cooperate in putting down the Emperor.[7] Akbar then arrived on 1st June 1681, at

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1. 'Jedhe Shakavali', Shiv Charitra Pradip, p.31.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid.
4. Joshi, Chhatrapati Sambhaji, p.124.
5. Sardesai, Ugraprakriti Sambhaji, p.33.
6. Sardesai, N.H.M., Part I, p.295;
   Sarkar, House of Shivaji, pp.180-184.
7. Khobrekar, (Ed.), Tarikh-I-Dilkasha, p.131.

Pali near Nagothana, 25 miles noth of Raigad in north Konkan.[1] Here Sambhaji received him and his forces with great respect and made all arrangements for their maintenance. He provided them with a reasonably big building for accommodation at village Pali. On account of Shahjada's residence, the village came to be named Padashahpur.[2] Chhatrapati Sambhaji succumbed to the advice of Kavi Kalash and gave asylum to Akbar. This action of Sambhaji prompted Aurangzeb to come down to the Deccan to punish Akbar and Sambhaji. Before visiting Akbar, Sambhaji had to face a situation that was created by his ministers. Some of the Sambhaji's officers (Ministers) quarrelled with him -- They signed a treasonable letter against their prince, in which they promised to join prince Akbar, to whom the letter was sent. On the advice of Durgadas Rathod, Akbar gave that letter to Sambhaji in order to prove the fidelity and gratitude felt towards him.[3] The conspirators also tried to poison Sambhaji who was at Panhala at that time.[4] The conspirators involved in these attempts against Sambhaji were Annaji Datto, Balaji Avaji Prabhu, Somaji Datto, Hiroji Farjand and Soyarabai, the mother of prince Rajaram. There were as many as 20 more persons involved in that conspiracy.[5]

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1. Khobrekar, (Ed.), Tarikh-I-Dilkasha, p.132.
2. Ibid.,
   On 13th November 1681 Sambhaji interviewed Akbar at Pandshahpur. Great honour was shown, Jedhe (S S), p.26.
3. Manucci, Storia Do - Mogor, II, p.241.
4. Bendre, Life of Sambhaji, pp.190-191.
5. Ibid.

The conspirators were arrested by Sambhaji before 30th August 1681.[1] He then put Annaji Datto, Balaji Avaji Prabhu, Somaji Datto and Hiroji Farjand to death.[2]

It appears that due to her involvement in that plot Soyarabai, the mother of prince Rajaram, felt ashamed of her life and she committed suicide by hanging herself to death.[3]

After putting down the conspiracies against him, Sambhaji visited Akbar at Padshahpur (Dhondase) on 13th November 1681. Sambhaji once again visited Akbar with Kavi Kalash at Gajapur.[4] Thereafter, they sent off Akbar to some unknown place and Sambhaji returned to Raigad.[5] Thus Sambhaji antagonised Aurangzeb by giving asylum to Akbar. So in order to put down the combination of Akbar and Sambhaji, Aurangzeb despatched his force to Deccan and himself reached Burhanpur on 13th November 1681.[6] All the military resources of the Mughal empire were concentrated by him in the Deccan. Soon after his arrival at Burhanpur, Aurangzeb sent Hasan Ali Khan with 14,000 troops to campaign in Konkan against Sambhaji[7].

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1. Jedhe Shakavali, p.31.
2. Ibid., p.31.
3. Modak, Chhoti Bakhar, pp.51-52.
4. Pawar,(Ed.), Tarabai Kalin Kagad Patre 1, No.322, p.470.
5. Ibid.
6. Pagadi, Massir-i-Alamgiri, p.21.
7. Farsi Sahitya Khanda VI, No.263, p.149.

Hasan Ali Khan with great difficulties descended into the Konkan but he could not get provisions due to the absence of communications between him and the main base of the Mughal operations which was at Junnar.[1]

Before facing of the Mughal operations, Sambhaji had to face the Sidis of Janjira. The Sidi sent his small vessels from Underi into Bombay harbour and pillaged the south shore of Bombay harbour and offered the captives for sale in Bombay.[2] The English protested against this act of the Sidi and set free about twenty one of these unfortunate people.[3] The English could not hurt the Sidi as he was the officer of the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb, who would deny them the facilities of free trade in the Mughal empire. As a result, when the English accommodated Sidis on the island of Bombay, the Sidis used that, as a facility to continue their antagonism against the Marathas by attacking their territory. To stop Sidi's menace, Sambhaji tried to burn the Sidi's ships and landed two hundred men on Underi. But the attempt failed and most of the men were killed or taken prisoners.[4]

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[1] B.I.S.M.

[2] Banaji, Bombay and the Sidis, p.32.

[3] Ibid.,

[4] B.I.S.M., Quarterly, year 9, Vol.1, p.15.

At the close of the year 1680 the Sidis' fleet sailed down the coast, intending to attack Vengurla,[1] but after various chases and fights, he returned in 1681 to Bombay. From Underi the Sidi attacked severel times the Bombay boats crossing for supplies to the Kolaba coast. Not a single year elapsed without frequent skirmishes among the Sidis, the English and the Marathas; and the year 1681 was no exception to the rule. Both the Sidis and the Marathas were guilty for gross outrages. Sambhaji was so distrustful of the English that he stopped supplying Bombay with grains from his territories.[2] The Portuguese also found the opportunity to annoy the English so that in Bombay the prince of the provision was trippled.[3] The Marathas burnt the houses of the Portuguese on hearing that the Portuguese at Daman killed some of Sambhaji's men.[4] In December 1681, the Sidi looted and burnt the towns of Apte and Nagothana belonging to the Marathas.[5] These activities of the Sidis of Janjira very much annoyed Sambhaji. Therefore, to put and end to the menace of the Sidis, he decided to conquer the fort of Janjira by deceit. Sambhaji deputed one

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1. Orme, Historical Fragments of Indostan, pp.96-98.
2. Banaji, op.cit.,p.33.
3. Orme, op.cit.,pp.107-09.
4. B.I.S.M., Quarterly, year 9, Vol.1,p.16.
5. Ibid., p.18.

Kondaji Farjand to secure employment with the Sidis. He succeeded in that and started staying with his family in the fort of Janjira. But his evil design against the Sidis was detected and the Sidis put many of them to death.[1]

As he became unsuccessful in capturing the fortress of Janjira by deceit, Sambhaji sent one general Dadji Raghunath Deshpande to besiege the fort. Later on, Sambhaji with Prince Akbar and 20000 men joined the besieging force from Raigad. These troops bombarded the walls of the fortress of Janjira for a period of fifteen days. As a result, when these walls sherved signs of cracking down, took shelter behind the rocks of the hills of Janjira on 3rd January, 1682.[2] From 3rd January to February 1682, Sambhaji exerted heavy pressure upon the Sidis and the Marathas were in a position to capture Janjira. At that moment Sambhaji was required to withdraw himself from the siege of Janjira by leaving that task of capturing it to his general as he was required to combat against the Mughal Army under Hasan Ali Khan which was advancing from the Ghat in Konkan[3] which we have already mentioned earlier. Sambhaji, thereafter, thought of a great plan. He set 50,000 men to work to fill up the channel (800 yards broad and 30 yards deep) with stones or timber and bags of cotton and thus form a causeway for his assaulting parties.[4]

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1. Chitnis, Sambhaji Bakhar, p.17.
2. Sambhaji Shakavali, pp.109-110.
3. Avalaskar, Aithasik Sadhane, L.No.64, p.99.
4. Sarkar, History of Aurangzib, Vol.IV, p.312.

But the arrival of the Mughal force of 2,000 horse and 15,000 foot under Nawab Hassan Ali Khan[1] on 4th February 1682 and also capture of Kalyan by the Mughals on 30th January 1683 forced him to return to Raigad, leaving the siege-operations to be carried on by Dadaji Prabhu Deshpande of Mahad. While the siege was going on, the Sidis' ships arrived in Bombay in May 1682. Sambhaji ordered his fleet at Khanderi to plunder every vessel putting into the port.[2]

Sir Jadunath describes the presence of a large Maratha fleet in Bombay thus: "May 1682-85 gallivats were lying in the rivers opposite Bombay with almost about 5000 soldiers on board..... his total naval strenth being 120 gallivats and 15 ghurabs".[3]

The factors reported that between November 1681 and July 1682, damages to the extent of Rs.4500 were inflicted by Sambhaji's gallivats operating from Khanderi[4]. To retaliate, the Sidis of Janjira attacked Kurla and cut off the noses of several inhabitants in August 1682.[5] An engagement between the Maratha and the Sidi fleet took place in October 1682. Sidi Misri, who had joined the Marathas during the time of

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1. Sarkar, House of Shivaji, p.223.
2. Fawcett, The English Factories in India (New series) Vol.III, p.109.
3. Sarkar, History of Aurangzib, Vol.IV, p.311.
4. Fawcett, op.cit., p.110.
5. Sarkar, House of Shivaji, p.223.

Shivaji and became the Naval Commander of the Marathas fought the naval battle with the Sidis.

> Most of Sambhaji's fleet fled immediately, leaving their commander in the enemy's hands.....Sidi Misri who was wounded died of his wounds the same day.[1]

Dadaji Prabhu Deshpande, who was entrusted to carry on the siege operations, was promised the post of Amatya on the capture of Janjira.[2] The fleet under Daulat Khan, Mainaik, Kavji Mahmud and Govind Kanho helped Dadaji Prabhu in this siege.[3]

This attempt of Dadji Prabhu to capture Janjira by assault proved to be a failure.[4] On this Dadji Prabhu withdrew his forces. The Sidi advanced in the interior of the Maratha territory, attacked Mahad, captured the wife and family of Dadji and carried them to Janjira.[5] In order to counteract the Sidis' stronghold of Janjira, Sambhaji sent a Subhedar to Anjadiva, to fortify it as a naval base in the beginning of 1682.[6] On hearing this the Portuguese landed 200 men on Anjadiva, ousted the Marathas and fortified it on 11 April 1682.[7] This

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1. Fawcett, op.cit., p.112.
2. Chitnis, Malhar Ramrao, Sambhaji Maharaj Ani Thorle Rajaram Maharaj Yanchi Charitre, pp.14-15.
3. Ibid.
4. Sarkar, History of Aurangzib, Vol.IV, p.318.
5. Chitnis, op.cit., p.16
6. Sarkar, Aurangzib, Vol.IV, p.315.
7. Danvers, The Portuguese in India, Vol.II, p.366.

An English man, one captain Richard Keigwin, brought about a revolution in Bombay by sieging the fort of Bombay from East India Company's Governor and established his authority in the name of Charles II, the king of England. On hearing this news, the Mughal general who had imprisoned an ambassador of Sambhaji, and who was intending to cut off his head, suspended the execution and sent the prisoner Captain Richard Keigwin. Thereupon, the captain safely sent him to Sambhaji. It seems that this friendly act helped to improve the relations between Sambhaji and the English.[1]

In April 1684, when Sidi Qassim arrived at Bombay to berth his fleet as usual, he was informed by Captain Richard Keigwin that he could have only water from the island and no shelter. Thereupon, Sidi Qassim withdrew. The Sidis could no longer use Bombay as the base of operations against the Maratha possessions on the mainland.[2] The Policy of Richard Keigwin against the Sidis led to the betterment of relations between Sambhaji and the English. Keigwin sent Capt. Henry Gary and Lt. Wilkins as envoys to Sambhaji to settle the outstanding differences and conclude peace with him.[3] In an agreement concluded between Sambhaji and the English, clause No.27 explicitly stated: "That it being proposed to the English

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1. Sarkar, "Sambhaji's relations with the English-1684"- B.I.S.M.Quarterly, Vols.II-IV(June 1932), p.30.

2. Banaji, Bombay and the Sidis, p.37.

3. Sarkar, Aurangzib, Vol.IV, pp.30-31.

that they having a difference with the Sidi and if occasion should happen I should assist them, that which I promise to do".[1]

It appears that the hostilities between Sambhaji and the Sidi were renewed in the year 1686. We have the following account in the Marathi documents: Chhatrapati Shivaji had some ailment which was cured by Pilaji Tabib of Chaul. Shivaji honoured Pillaji with a Palanquin and ordered the Subhedar of Chaul to administer the province in consultation with Pilaji. During the reign of Sambhaji, Balaji, the son of Pilaji was in correspondence with Sambhaji. During his meeting with Sambhaji, Balaji assured that he would capture Underi from the Sidis, with the help of Mai Naik Bhandari. Balaji was successful in placing the ladders at the fortifications of Underi. However, the Killedar saw that and the plan was frustrated. When the Sidis came to know that Balaji was the mastermind of the plan, he attacked Chaul, captured Balaji with his family and converted them to Islam.[2]

The English have recorded that the Sidis had besieged a small fort called Cullane at the mouth of the Nagon River, which if captured, Khanderi would be in the danger of falling in his hands.[3] However, the Sidi raised the siege of Cullane to pursue Prince Akber.[4]

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1. Sarkar, Aurengzib, Vol.IV, p.36.
2. Ramdas Ramdasi, Aitihasik Kagad Patre, Sar 4, Mani 9, Nos.63, 66.
3. Secret Outward Letter book 4, p.137 of 27 Feb.,1686.
4. Ibid., p.138 of 28 Feb.1686.

A little later, the Sidis asked the English to help them in transporting a big gun, which they had seized from one of the forts of Sambhaji. The Deputy Governor of Bombay evaded the issue and asked the Surat authorities for their advice.[1] The English further asked the authorities at Surat for advice regarding Sambhaji, as Underi was in danger of being lost to the Sidis.[2] At the same time it appears that some negotiations were going on with the Marathas. Sambhaji's Peshwa had despatched a letter to the English to send a boat to meet them.[3] The English entered into a treaty with Sambhaji by which the latter agreed to give to the English Rs.50,000 and 2,000 Khandis of rice on the condition that they protected the creeks and the months of the river along the Maratha coast.[4]

J.Child, Governor of Bombay, noted that Sambhaji was losing against the Mughals.[5] On 9th January, 1688, Child informed the Directors that his endeavours in dealing with Sambhaji did not have the desired effect.[6]

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1. Secret Outward letter book 4, p.182 of 6 Oct.1686.
2. Ibid., p.184 of 18 Oct. 1686.
3. Desai W.S., "The Relations of Bombay with the Marathas during the Company's War with Aurangzib, 1685-1690", I.H.C., 1938, p.605.
4. Anderson, The English in Western India, p.242.
5. Sharma, Maratha History, p.244.
6. Ibid.,

Marathas and Mughals in Konkan (1681-1684)

The first attempt of the Mughals to penetrate into the Konkan was made in January 1682. Aurangzeb, before coming down to the Deccan, got acquainted with the topography of the Deccan through his officer Abu Muhamad. He learnt from Abu Muhamad that there existed 360 ghats and passes in the Swarajya territory and out of those 65 were such that through them elephants and camels could pass; whereas the remaining passes were narrow which were in Konkan.[1] Thereafter, Aurangzeb arranged a three-pronged attack on Sambhaji. In Konkan, Shahabuddin was asked to proceed from Kalyan in the north, Prince Muazzam, marching from Belgaum across Ram Sejghat and joining hands with the Portuguese at Goa, thus blockading Sambhaji from the south. At the same time, Azam Shah distracted the attention of Sambhaji by carrying on a foraging campaign into Baglan. The Sidi was expected all the while to cut off the supplies and prevent them from reaching Sambhaji's forces which were thus to be trapped from all sides.[2]

Geographically, Konkan occupies a very strategic position, from where, the Marathas were able to move in to the northern and southern parts of the Deccan, without much interruption. The military movements of the Marathas in the

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1. Farsi Sahitya Khand,VI, No.360, p.211.
2. Maharashtra State Gazetteers, Kolaba District, p.92.

17th century from Konkan into the parts of the Deccan illustrate the point very convincingly. Shivaji's possession of Konkan remained unchallenged till his death in 1680. Therefore the Maratha statesmen always tried to retain the control of the Konkan.

In Konkan, the regions which were held by Sambhaji in 1680 were Ramnagar, Jawhar, Kalyan, Bhivandi, Chaul, Dabhol, Rajapur and in the extreme South Kudal, Bhimgadh, Phonda and Ankole.

Aurangzeb wanted to dislodge the Marathas from Konkan whereas Sambhaji wanted war operations in the Mughal territory. Strategy and the numerous forces used by the Aurangzeb in attacking Sambhaji did not allow Sambhaji to realise his plan of attacking the Mughal forces in this territory.

The Tala Konkan territory was of importance for the movements of Sambhaji's troops against the Mughals. Therefore, he took steps to prevent the entry of the Mughal in that area.[1] Sambhaji's troops only carried out the customary raids into Mughal territory wherever they could, every year after Dasara, but these sporadic activities were mechanical and did not lead to any extension of his state, nor even its strength.

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1. Gokhale, Sambhaji, p.251.

On the contrary we notice the Mughal struggle for occupation of Konkan, both north and south. This was essential for restricting the movements of the Marathas, who were using Konkan as a spring-board for their agression in the Bijapuri and the Mughal territories.

We have already dealt with the first attempt of the Mughals to penetrate Konkan in January 1682 with a despatch of twenty thousand horse and fifteen thousand foot soldiers under Hasan Ali Khan,[1] son of Ali Wardi Khan, who was a servant in the court of Jahangir. He was told to look after administration of the Konkan and to admonish the Marathas.[2] He descended the Naneghat and reached Kalyan at the end of January 1682. While passing through the ghat, Hasan Ali burnt some Maratha villages.[3] On 24th February Ran Mastkhan also reached Kalyan.[4] They ravaged the country.[5] At the end of September, Aurangzeb asked Ranmastkhan to go to Ahmednagar in order to punish the Marathas in that sector. After the rainy season, in the month of September, Aurangzeb heard from Sidi Yaqut Khan, Qiledar of Dandarajapuri that Sambhaji has already embarked on the defence of Konkan. He had also started recruiting men in that region. His intention was to

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1. Kulkarni, Mughal-Maratha Relations, p.20.
2. Khobrekar, op.cit.p 133.
3. Joshi, Sambhaji Kalin Patra Sar Sangraha, p.110.
4. Ibid.
5. Khobrekar, op.cit., p.131.

to blockade the passage of the Mughal forces into the Talkonkan. He had issued orders to his various officers and men to close them to the Mughals.[1] He drew attention of all his officers on various posts in Talkonkan to the impending danger of the Mughal attack and put them on alert.[2] By October, all the roads to Konkan were closedand no Mughal officer was allowedto pass by these roads. Aurangzeb ordered Bahadur and others to march to the valley of TalKonkan on 28th September 1682.[3]

In the month of October, Khan-i-Jahan Bahadur was asked to march against the Marathas in Konkan. But he declined and got himself excused. Later on Aurangzeb conferred the title of Bahadur Khan on Ranmastkhan and asked him tp proceed to Tal Konkan.[4] This was his second assignment in Tal Konkan against the Marathas in a short period of six months. He complained to Aurangzeb about the unsatisfactory condition of the army and acute shortage of foodgrains. The pay of the soldiers was in arrears and there was none to give them any financial assistance.[5] However, it seems that he left for Tal Konkan. He mustered about nine thousand foot soldiers in a short time. Another two thousand soldiers of Kanhoji joined him. Bahadur Khan Panni got into Konkan via the hill of Mohaje.[1] But when the news of the Marathas causing havoc in the area of Nasik reached him, he instantly moved towards that region.[2] In November 1682, the Mughal General Shihabud-din left his beg and baggage at Junnar and attacked the Tal Konkan. He looted twenty Maratha villages, killed four hundred persons, arrested one thousand men and captured 4,000 animals.[3] Further with the help of a certain local zamindar who was well acquainted with the territory of the Marathas he invaded other villages and played havoc in the region. As a reward of this bravery, he was awarded a special robe by Aurangzeb.[4]

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[1] Kulkarni, Mughal-Maratha Relations, p.20.

[2] Ibid..

[3] Kulkarni, op.cit., p.21.

[4] Ibid.

[5] Ibid.

We have already mentioned that in April 1682 Hasan Ali Khan was deputed to Kalyan-Bhivandi area by giving a command of 15000 troops. In November, a Maratha force consisting of six to seven thousand cavalry and infantry men repaired a small fortress near Kalyan-Bhivandi and established a post there. On 28th November, Bahadur Khan fought a battle and defeated them[5]. The Mughal activity of warfare in that area assumed a great tempo in November 1682, when the Mughal general Ranmastkhan occupied Kalyan.[6] Sambhaji

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1. Khobrekar, op.cit., p.137.
   This news was confirmed by Bendre in his Sambhaji, p.239.
2. Khobrekar, op.cit., p.137.
3. Farsi Sahitya Khand, VI, Nos.365, p.216; No.367, p.217.
4. Kulkarni, op.cit., p.21.
5. Ibid.
6. Gokhale, Sambhaji, p.254.

then sent Rupaji Bhosle, Kesopant and Nilopant Peshwa against him.[1] A severe battle was fought. The town of Mehendali, which was five miles from Kalyan-Bhivandi, was attacked and looted by 2000 Maratha troops. The Mughal, Mukarram Khan fought a severe engagement against them near Uran, a village to a distance of thirty miles from Mehendali. In that engagement many soldiers from both the sides were killed and some were wounded. After that engagement, Mukarram Khan camped at Mehendali.[2]

From Kalyan-Bhivandi sector Bahadur Khan marched towards Bitanga fort and burnt the wadi of the fort.[3] Shortly after this battle the Maratha army made two more night attacks on Ranmast Khan's army. The Mughals offered strong resistance. They defeated the Marathas.[4] Seeing Bahadur Khan in the Kalyan-Bhivandi area, Sambhaji sent 7000 Maratha troops to check his advance. Bahadur Khan defeated those troops. He then repaired the defence wall which was around Kalyan. Bahadur Khan also defeated 10,000 cavalry and 10,000 cavalry and 12,000 infantry soldiers of the Marathas when they attacked him. After that Bahadur Khan marched towards the Maratha fortress of Bitinga and set fire to a village near it.[5]

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1. Shivcharitra Pradip-Jedhe Shakawali, p.32.
2. Gokhale, Sambhaji, p.254.
3. Kulkarni, op.cit., p.21.
4. Ibid.
5. Farsi, Sahitya Khand, VI, No.390, p.237; Gokhale, Sambhaji, pp.254-255.

During the last week of December 1682, Sambhaji deputed his Commander Tukoji who arrived at a distance of eight miles from Kalyan-Bhivandi. He dug up trenches. Immediately Ranmastkhan, Sidi Yaqut Khan and his maternal-uncle who were engaged in bringing the foodgrains, marched out to meet the enemy. Others were left behind atKalyan-Bhivandi. Daud Khan, Abul Faiyaz Khan, etc., of the Mughal army were divided into three divisions in order to face the Marathas. In the initial stage the two sides fought from a distance using arrows, bows and muskets. Finally an assault with swords and spears was made. Tukoji and many others were killed. The Marathas then retreated to the nearby mountains.[1]

In January, 1683, theMughal generals, Ranmast Khan and Bahadur Khan were at the Mughal military base of operations at Kalyan-Bhivandi. They were continuously attacked by the Maratha troops. Therefore, Ruhullah Khan sent Yashwant Rao, a Mughal officer for their help.[2]

At this time the Mughal army in Kalyan-Bhivandi sector felt the need of grains and other supplies. Sidi Yaqut Khan, the Commander of the Mughal navy was asked to supply them. This was done by the Sidi as the Portuguese of Goa had given the Mughals facility to carry them through their ships between Thana and Kalyan. The Portuguese gesture

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1. Farsi Sahitya Khanda, VI, No.405, p.249; Kulkarni, op.cit., p.22.
2. Gokhale, Sambhaji, p.256.

of giving the safe passage to the Mughals was considered as inimical posture of the Portuguese towards the Marathas. Therefore, to impede the movements of the Mughal ships to Kalyan and Bhivandi the Marathas started building a fort at Parsik. When the Portuguese came to know this, they took possession of the site and built a fort of their own there. This is an index of the Portuguese attitude to the Mughals.[1]

In the first quarter of January, 1683, the Marathas surprisingly attacked Bahadur Khan thrice at Kalyan. But he managed to defeat them; he repaired Kalyan-Bhivandi forts and according to the Emperor's orders engaged 2000 cavalry troops at Kalyan.[2]

In order to prevent the ships carrying provisions from Surat to Bahadur Khan at Kalyan, the Marathas captured two forts of the Portuguese in the territory of Thana and Bassein. Sidi Yaqut Khan was despatched against them by Aurangzeb. After sometime, Bahadur Khan joined the Sidi. Both of them marched against the Marathas. They captured one of the two forts mentioned above after a stiff battle from the Marathas and demolished it and came back to Kalyan.[3] To help Bahadur Khan Aurangzeb despatched Ruhulla Khan with troops in

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1. Parvate, Portuguese-Mahratta Relations, p.91.
2. Farsi Sahitya Khanda, VI, No.398, p.244.
3. Ibid., No.429, pp.266-267.

February 1683.[1] Accordingly, Ruhulla Khan joined Bahadur Khan on 1st March 1685.[2]

At that time the Maratha force was at a distance of 120 cos. The Mugnal force marched by gallap and cut the distance of 80 cos. On 7th March 1683 the news was despatched to the Mughal Emperor from the Mughal camp at Tal Konkan that they were at a distance of 4 cos from the Marathas and were confident of covering the distance soon.[3] The Mughal Emperor also got advice from the local resident not to halt at Kalyan in the rainy season as the moisture weather would kill the horses.[4] He was advised to encamp at Menvali.[5]

In the beginning of March 1683 a Maratha general by name Vithoji blocked the passage of the Mughal army in Konkan with the help of 4000 horse and foot. The Mughal commander deputed Padam Singh Harawat against them. In an angagement, the Mughals defeated the Marathas and killed 400 Maratha soldiers. But the Marathas killed Mughal Mansabdar by name Gotmaji Dakhani. The Portuguese helped the Mughals in that engagement.[6]

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1. Ibid., No.434, p.270.
2. Ibid., No.439, p.273.
3. Itihasik Farsi Sahitya Khand, Vol.6, L.27442, p.275.
4. Ibid., p.277.
5. Ibid.,
6. Ibid.,VI,447, p.278.

After that Hambirrao Mohite, the Commander-in-chief of Sambhaji marched against the Mughals in Kalyan-Bhivandi sector with 20000 horse and 10,000 infantry. He was attacked by Bahadur Khan on 10th March 1683. Battle was fiercely fought; many Maratha soldiers were killed. Hambirrao was wounded by an arrow. His wife's brother and three Maratha commanders were killed in that engagement.[1] On the Mughal side, Padmasingh who received 35 wounds was killed[2]. Bhagwat Singh, son of Mankoji Dakhani was killed. Ram Singh, son of Ratansingh Rathod, after hearing the news of Padam Singh's death wanted to go to the battle-field inspite of his sickness. But he became so weak due to fever that after preparation he collapsed and died. Hari Singh, son of Puramal Bundela who was wounded, was left behind on the battlefield and the Marathas carried him away. He died on the way. Raghunath Singh, Kabul Singh, Madhoram Sisodia and Tukoji and other Mughal soldiers were wounded.[3]

Though the Marathas displayed great strength and valour the fort remained with the Mughals. In the Akhbarat of 4 April 1683, there is a long list of dead and wounded.

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1. Farsi Sahitya Khanda, VI, No.448, p.279; No.462, p.293.
2. Ibid., p.293.
3. Ibid.,

On the Mughal side, the Mughal commanders - Padma Singh, Bhagwat Singh Khan, Kasim Khan, Nawazish Khan, Azmatullah Khan, Sayyid Abdul Hadi, Sayyid Murtaza, Muhammad Yar, Ibrahim Beg, Muatasim Beg, Sayyid Bahadur, Kwaza Muhammad Salih, Sayyid Yusuf, Shaikh Farid Valad Hamid Khan, Mir Muhammad Valad Multafit Khan, Bhagwant Sing Valad Ramsingh, Shyam Singh, Raja Durg Singh, Sayyid Abush-Shukur Sayyid Nasib, Sayyid Mujahid, Sayyid Jalal, Sayyid Ghayat, Nasir Beg, Humayun Ali and Farhad Beg were killed in that battle. In addition to the above, the following Mughal Mansabdars were wounded in that battle - Vasantrao, Niwasrao Dwarkaji, Chhatrasal Valad Ratan Rathod, Basantrao, Sunderdas Udit Singh, Bhojraj, Kalyanrao, Dilirkhan, Akram Khan, Kwaja Muhammad Adil, Sayyid Nuruddin, Abdul Kadir Haji Burhan, Haji Abdulah Beg, Aiwaji Beg, Badi-uz-Zaman, Mir Khalan and some of the relatives of Kasim Khan and Khwaja Yakub.[1] Though the fort remained with the Mughals, the battle created sufficient terror among the Mughals. Thereafter, the Marathas became so active that they gathered a force to attack the Mughals in the area of Kalyan-Bhivandi. When they reached a distance of 14 miles from Kalyan-Bhivandi about 6 April 1683 Saifulla Khan, son of

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[1] *Ibid.*, VI, No.464, pp.294-295;
Gokhale, *Sambhaji*, p.257;
Joshi, *Sambhaji*, p.173-174.

Ruhullah Khan, ran and attacked them. The Marathas could not stand the attack. They ran away leaving their bag and baggage in the nearby forest. They also set fire to 2/3 nearby villages.[1] By now Sambhaji intensified the blockade of Kalyan-Bhivandi. So the Mughal general Rohillah Khan was ordered to enter in Kalyan Bhivandi area from Kalwan (in the Paud valley near Kalyan). Ranmasta Khan came to the ghat, Rupaji Bhosle attacked him near Titwala (4¼ miles to the North East of Kalyan). In a fierce battle, the Marathas slew many Mughal commanders.[2]

Due to the effective resistance of the Marathas the Mughals were compelled to approach the English for rescue[3]. They also could not make any effective advance in the Kalyan-Bhivandi sector upto August 1683.[4]

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1. Farsi Sahitya Khand, VI, No.468, p.300.
   Joshi, Sambhaji, p.124.
2. Jedhe Shakavali, p.32.
3. Kulkarni, op.cit.,p.25.
4. Ibid.,

Mughal Penetration into South Konkan

After the rainy season of 1683, the Mughal offensive in the South Konkan was reopened.[1] On 15th September 1683, Shah Alam Bahadur started in the direction of Konkan and Ramdurg* which is in the taluka of Konkan and was then in the possession of Sambhaji and is at a distance of 30 Kos from the fort of Panhala. His intention was to reach the sea coast, the forts of which area were in possession of the Marathas and to capture the same to introduce peace and order there and to build thanas there[2]. It was now for the second time that the Mughal armies were marching into Konkan. Aurangzeb also deputed Ahish Khan, the chief of artillery, Sarfraz Khan, Ikhlas Khan, brother of Bahlul Khan, Khwaja Mukarram and an army of twenty thousand men[3]. The Mughal army managed to conquer few cities and forts of the Marathas inspite of stiff opposition of the Marathas. After that Shah Alam crossed the Ramghat and came to Sawantwadi. His march was opposed bravely by the Marathas. The roads were narrow and the front guards of Shah Alam's army had a tough time facing the Marathas. Many people died on both the sides[4].

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1. Sarkar (tr), Massir-I-Alamgiri, p.145.
   * in Belgaum see Shivaji Souvenir, p.87.
2. Khobrekar, Tarikh-i-Dilkasha, p.139.
3. Pagadi,(Marathi tr.)
4. Ibid.,

Khafi Khan gives a graphic account of this expedition as follows: "The territory was full of thorny trees and dense jungles. On one side there were high mountains and on the other side were deep valleys. Many infidels were put to death. Khwaja Abul Mukarram and other sardars showed considerable valour. But the food and climate was unsuitable for the Mughal army. Even animals like horses and camels could not survive. In this campaign many men and animals perished. No horses were left in the army. The infidels blockaded the roads from all sides, supplies were stopped. The condition of the army became precarious and it became difficult for the Prince to stay there. At last he requested Aurangzeb for permission to withdraw"![1]

On 15th January 1684, Shah Alam arrived at Dicholim on his way back. From there he proceeded to Vengurla and on 20th February he went to Malwan and from there returned to the bank of Bardesh river, which is to the north of the city of Goa in order to establish contact with his provision vessels as his army had started suffering from shortage of food[2]. By May 1684, the Sidi of Janjira sent him provisions. Shah Alam set out on his return march according to orders of Aurangzeb[3].

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1. Pagadi, Khafikhana (Marathi Translation), pp.13-14.
2. Sarkar, Aurangzib, IV, p.292.
3. Ibid.,

On again Prince Muazzam informed the Emperor that the horses and other animals of transport, in his army, were dying because of bad climate of the Konkan and that the dearth and shortage of foodgrain had reached its climax[1]. So on 20th April 1684 Ranadullah Khan with fresh army was appointed to reinforce Shah Alam and bring him back safely.[2]

Thus came to an end for the time being the Mughal offensive against the Marathas in Konkan. The Marathas fought bravely and proved superior in military strategy. Thus the plan of Aurangzeb of operating in Konkan failed miserably[3] due to lack of provisions to do any harm to Sambhaji.

The Emperor for the present gave up his attempt against his rebel son Akbar and Sambhaji and directed his attention to the subjugation of Bijapur and Golkonda, the two Muslim states from whom Sambhaji received occasional support and who being both Shias in their faith had long been an objects of his wrath. Aurangzeb invested Bijapur on 27 March and captured it after a heroic resistance on 2 september 1686.

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1. Khobrekar, op.cit., p.142.
2. Pagadi, Khafikhan, p.8.
3. Ibid.,

Similarly Golkonda was invested on 28 January 1687 and it surrendered to Aurangzeb on 1st October of that year. So during these three years his main attention had been withdrawn from the Maratha country in Konkan[1]. Thus for the next three or four years nothing of importance is recorded in Konkan.

Mughal Operations in Konkan

The Mughal sardars Kazi Muhammad and Abdul Kadir captured the fort Kothala which is situated in Tal Konkan in Telya Ghat from the Marathas by deception. Both the sardars shouted and told falsely the persons in that fort that they had brought grains to store in the fort and made them to open the gates. When the gates were open the Mughals rushed into the fort and fought against those persons and captured that fort in November, 1684.[2] After that the Marathas besieged the fort in order to conquer it from the Mughals.[3] Therefore, Abdul Kadir, who was in that fort requested help from Aurangzeb to hold that fort against the Marathas. Aurangzeb then sent the Mughal general Abdul Karim and others for the help of Abdul Qadir.[4]

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[1] Khobrekar, *op.cit.*,

[2] *Farsi Sahitya Khand,VI*, No.510, pp.328-329.

[3] *Ibid.*, No.511, p.330.

[4] *Ibid.*,

Aurangzeb also ordered Abdul Aziz Khan, the Commandant of the fort of Junnar, to go to the help of Abdul Kadir (the commandant of fort Kothla) in November 1684; but the Mughals found that the way to the fort was blocked by Naroji, the commander of Sambhaji. Thereupon Abdul Khair, son of Abdul Aziz Khan, attacked and captured Naroji. Soon after the capture of Naroji, Abdul Kadir Khan, the Mughal Thanedar of Karus; Mankoji, the Mughal thanedar of Karde-Nimone, reached that spot. They then attacked the Maratha troops and killed many of them in a battle.[1]

In the abovementioned battle the Mughal thanedars killed one Naro Trimbak and severed his head. Manakaji Pandhare, the Mughal thanedar of Shikarpur, who was a party to that evil deed sent the head of Naro Trimbak along with his report through Udaji to Aurangzeb. Aurangzeb then had the head of Naroji Trimbak hung on a street.[2] Aurangzeb also gave a Khilat as a reward to Udaji, who had carried the head of Naroji Trimbak to him.[3] In December 1684 Aurangzeb named the fort of Kothala as Miftah-ul-futuh.[4] Then in the same month, Aurangzeb ordered Marhamat Khan, the Mughal

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1. Farsi Sahitya Khand, VI, Letter No. 514, pp.331-332.
2. Ibid., No.515, pp.332-333.
3. Ibid., No.516, p.333.
4. Ibid., No.530, p.342.

General, to go to the fort of Kothala and asked him to remain alert there against the Marathas. He also gave 2500 hons as a reward to Govindrao and other Mavales who had helped the Mughals to capture that fort.[1]

In January 1685, the Marathas tried to capture fort Kothalgad in TalKonkan from the Mughals. The Maratha troops entered the fort Kothalgad in the dark of night. But Sayyid Abdul Karim, tne Mughal commandant of Kothalgad became aware of their entry and he put on light in the fort. After that the Mughal troops fought with arrows and guns with the Marathas. The Maratha troops then took to their heels. It was also reported to Aurangzeb that the people in that fort were put to great difficulties as they did not receive supply of grains. Therefore, Aurangzeb ordered Abdul Khair, the Fauzdar of Junnar, to supply foodgrains to Kotnalgad[2]. Thereafter, 7000 Maratha troops had again gone to attack Kothalgad. But the Mughals killed and wounded many of them.[3]

The Mughals were exerting to penetrate in the territory of the Marathas and were trying to carry out destruction in it. In January 1685, the Mughal general, Ghaziuddin Khan, proceeded from Poona and after reaching near Nizampur, set fire to three

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1. op.cit.No.531, p.343.
2. Ibid., No.538, p.347.
3. Ibid., No.547, p.356.

Maratha villages. He captured men and animals from these villages. After that ne went to Wadi (Pachad) of Raigad where Sambhaji was present alongwith his relatives. On receiving the news of arrival of the Mughals, Sambhaji went to Raigad with those relatives. Ghaziuddin Khan then looted the Pachad Wadi, Nizampur, and other places. When he was having his camp at a distance of 2 Kos from Raigad, Hambirrao Mohite, the commander in chief of Sambhaji and Rupaji Bhosle with 15,000 troops attacked him. But Ghaziuddin Khan defeated them and pursued them upto a distance of 7 Kos. Ghaziuddin Khan then returned to his camp and looted the prosperous area around it.[1]

It seems that while pursuing those Maratha troops, Ghaziuddin Khan had reached near Gangoli where Kavi Kalash fought against him and made him retreat to the Ghat.[2]

In March 1685, Saifullah Khan was attacked by the Marathas in the Kalyan-Bhivandi area. In the skirmish which took place between the Mughals and the Marathas, Jiwaji, the brother of Manakoji Pandhare of Shikarpur, did not help Saifulla Khan. Therefore, Saifulla Khan removed Jivaji from service.[1] This shows that the Marathas were trying to reconquer the territory lost to the Mughals in the Kalyan-Bhivandi area in 1685.

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[1] Farsi Sahitya Khanda VI, No.554,p.360; No.555 p.361, No.556, p.362.

[2] Jedhe Shakavali, pp.32-33.

From the period September 1683 the Mughal armies had penetrated in the territory of Talkonkan upto Jan-Feb. 1685, Khem Sawant, the Desai of Kudal, revolted against Sambhaji and went over to the Portuguese who were the enemies of the Marathas.[2] With the help of the Portuguese he looted and burnt Maratha territory which was near Goa.[3] In Jan. 1684 the Mughals attacked Dicholi, burnt Kudal and Banda and looted Vengurla.[4] Fearing an invasion of Sambhaji the Portuguese made a secret treaty on8 Feb. 1685 with Khem Sawant, who it seems was acting as representative of all the Desais of Konkan.[5] In 1687, a part of the army of the Mughals attacked Sindhudurg and looted Kudal which was in the hands of Sambhaji.

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1. Farsi Sahitya Khand VI, No.577, p.383.
2. Jedhe Shakavali, p.33.
3. Gokhale, Sambhaji, p.308.
4. Mhamai, The Sawants of Wadi and the Portuguese, p.6.
5. Ibid.,

For his part in helping the Mughals, Khem Sawant was bestowed with the Sardeshmukhi of Kudal Prant.[1]

After the plots against Sambhaji in June 1680 and October 1681 had been crushed, Konkan witnessed a fresh conspiracy in October 1684 against him. When it came to light, Sambhaji threw Manaji More, Gangadhar and Vasudev Pandit and Sahuji Somnath into prison,[2] where they remained confined till the death of Sambhaji.[3]

After four years in October 1688 the Shirke family rose against Sambhaji. They attacked Kavi-Kalash and drove him into Khelna for refuge. On hearing, Sambhaji marched from Raigad to rescue his Pradhan, defeated and routed the rebels at Sangmeshwar and then went to Khelna.[4] On the advice of Kavi Kalash, Sambhaji arrested Pralhad Niraji and many other ministers and leading people on suspicion of complicity in the late rising.[5] After making necessary provisions in the

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1. op.cit.
2. Shivacharitra Pradip, p.33;
   Sardesai, Ugraprakriti Sambhaji, p.36.
3. Sarkar, Aurangzib, IV, p.339.
4. Shivcharitra Pradeep, p.34.
5. Ibid.

Khelna fort he started with Kavi-Kalash for returning to his capital as at that time Zulfiquar Khan, the Mughal general who Aurangzeb had deputed to conquer Raigad was marching towards it with his troops.[1]

On his way back to Raigad, Sambhaji halted at Sangameshwar. He did not expect a Mughal advance from Kolhapur to Sangameshwar. Therefore, he sent away bulk of his army to Raigad and came to Sangameshwar to bathe in the river Banganga. Sangameshwar is situated in inaccessible valleys. The Minister of Sambhaji, Kavi Kalash built a palace there. The approach to Sangameshwar from the Ghat is very difficult. There are ups and downs on the road and also thick growth of thorny bushes. Taking all this into consideration Sambhaji thought himself quite safe and stayed there.[3] with a desire to bathe in the river Banganga. Muqurrab

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1. Pagadi- Futuhate Alamgiri (Marathi Translation), p.33.
2. Khobrekar, op.cit., p.167
3. Pagadi, Khafikhan (tr), p.15;
   Sardesai, NHM, I, p.314.

Khan's spies were moving in that territory. They received the intelligence of Sambhaji's activity and Muquarrab Khan decided to capture him.[1] The Khan marched from Kolhapur towards Sangameshwar. On receiving the news of Khan's approach, Sambhaji did not take measures to oppose him. But when he saw the enemy before him he came to fight the Mughals with his meagre resources. At that time his followers fled when Kavi Kalash was wounded and the General Malodji Ghorpade was killed.[2] Sambhaji stayed behind and ran to temple and hide himself there. The Mughals searched for him and located Sambhaji. Then Sambhaji was surprised and captured.[3] Kavi Kalash who was wounded in the fight was also captured.[4] Muqafrab Khan immediately wrote an account of the capture of Sambhaji to Aurangzeb[5] who ordered the music of rejoicing to be played.[6] Aurangzeb beheaded Sambhaji and Kavi Kalash at

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1. Pagadi, op.cit., p.17.
2. Sardesai, NHM., p.314.
3. Sambhaji and Kavi Kalash were caught near Sangameshwar by Muqarrab Khan on 1st February 1689, Jedhe (S.S.),p.31; Khafi Khan, pp.15-17.
4. Ibid.
5. Khobrekar, op.cit., p.167, 169.
6. Pagadi, Khafi Khan, p.18.

Tulapur on 11th March 1689.[1]

The news of Sambhaji's capture reached Raigad very soon. Rajaram, the younger brother of Sambhaji was then in nominal confinement in the fort. He was released and proclaimed King on 9th February i.e. a week after Sambhaji had been captured. Pralhad, Manaji More and others who had been injustly confined by Sambhaji were set at liberty and restored to their offices.[2]

In order to nip this revival of the Maratha royal power in the bud, the Emperor at once despatched Hikad Khan, the son of Umdat-ul-Mulk with a large force to conquer the capital fort of Raigad and capture the new Maratha King.[3] The Khan arrived before the fort on 25th March 1689 and at once laid siege to it. Yesubai, the widowed queen of Sambhaji, rose to the occasion and heartened the drooping spirits of the Maratha garrison. She advised Rajaram along with his wives to slip away from the fort. She also advised the principal

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1. Jedhe (S.S.), p.32; Khafikhan, p.20.
2. Shivcharitra Pradip, pp.34-35,38.
3. Khobrekar, op.cit., p. 169.

commanders to intensify the usual harrassing operations in all directions against the Mughal forces[1]. She decided to stay in the fort with her son Shahu and defend the capital.[2] Accordingly, Rajaram left Raigad on 5th April 1689 in disguise with a band of faithful attendants for Jingi. Itiqad Khan captured the fort of Raigad,[3] seized Shahu, a son of Sambhaji, and his mother Yesubai on 19th October 1689.[4] Aurangzeb issued orders on 5 November 1689 that Raigad be called Uttamgad[5].

The murder of Sambhaji sent a thrill of horror through every Maratha heart and that made them to make sacrifice to restore the honour of the nation.

Menucci observes:

"It seemed as if the death of Sambhaji was bound to secure Aurangzeb's lordship over all the lands of Hindustan down to the sea. But the commanders of valorous Shivaji,

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1. Sardesai, NHM, I, p.320.
2. Ibid.
3. Awalskar, Aitihasik Sadhane, Lekh 62 gives a brief account of the Maratha capital Raigad and the territory around during 1689 to 1707. Itiqadkhan ordered the rehabilitation of Wagholi a village 12 miles N.E. of Mahad in the present Raigad District, A.S. L.62.
4. Khobrekar, op.cit., p.170.
5. Pagadi, Mogal Darbarchi Batmi Patre, I, p.5.

father of this unfortunate man, were by this time practised in fighting the Mughals, and experts in the way of dealing with those foreigners who deserted from his side. They determined to continue the campaign and uphold the cause of Ram Raja, younger brother of the deceased. Therefore, they took him out of the prison and made him their prince. Thus in 1689 the war recommenced with great fury which compelled so potent a king to remain away from his kingdom (i.e. Hindustan) and dwell in camp merely to prevent loss of his previous conquests[1] (of Bijapur and Golkanda)".

Rajaram's problem was to sustain the Maratha kingdom against heavy Mughal onslaught. To tide over this problem he selected and appointed capable persons as his ministers to execute the job.

Those who were selected by him were Ramchandra Pant Nilkanth, Shankarajipant as Sachiv and Pralhad Niraji as administrator and Khandoji Naik Pansambal as chief of the

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1. Manucci, Storia Do Mogor, II, pp.310-12.

army. After reaching Jinji, Rajaram by an order of 1690 made two divisions of Maharashtra. The southern part beginning from Karad, Talkonkan and Gokarna was put under Ramchandrapant.[1] The northern part of Varghat beginning from Karad and northern part of North Konkan was placed under Shankarajipant. Ramchandrapant was created Regent of the west with the title of Hakumat-panha and he guided the fortunes of this virtually kingless state with remarkable wisdom and tact. All the Maratha sardars went to King Rajaram at Jinji and he gave them titles, army commands, and grants for the different districts where they were to go, loot the country and impose Chauth.[2]

The Maratha captains, each acting on his own account, carried on a guerilla warfare as described in Chitnis[3] and caused the greatest loss and disturbance to the Mughal territories. Rajaram was forced to adopt the method of offering lands to counteract the activities of Aurangzeb who

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1. Shivacharitrasahitya, Vol.2,No.II,L.225,pp.222-223; Kulkarni, Mughal-Maratha Relations,pp. 135-136.
2. Sarkar, Aurangzib,Vol.V, p.150.
3. Ibid

was attracting the Maratha warriors by the offer of jagirs and inams as can be seen in the following pages.

King Rajaram issued a letter of assurance to Sardar Krishnaji Gole of Konkan on 12 April 1689 to the effect that he should come with his contingent and that his services would be accepted by arranging for his maintenance.[1] It seems that the Emperor came to know this inducement of Rajaram. Therefore, he caused to issue orders by Mughal officers to four members of the same Gole family stating that inam of 4 villages and the Jagir of 7 villages be bestowed on them with the conditon the they should serve the Emperor faithfully and enjoy the gift.[2] But providence crowned Ramchandrapant Amatya's endeavours with success and frustrated all the cherished desires of the Emperor.[3] From his base at Vishalgad which is on the border of Talkonkan, Ramchandrapant kept a vigilant eye upon the doings of the numerous Maratha leaders, employed over an extensive

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1. Avalaskar, Aitihasik Sadhane (Marathi), letter 53, pp.78-79.
2. Ibid., Letter 56, p.82.
3. Sardesai, NHM, I, p.323.

field of war stretching from Burhanpur in the north to Jinji in the south. In Konkan, a number of young spirited warriors came forward and executed the projects and commands of Ramchandra Pant. One of them was Kanhoji Angre whose valour and terror to the enemies will be explained later.

By the capture of Sambhaji, the Emperor thought that the terror of the Marathas in the Deccan was removed. He wanted to do away with the Maratha rule from the Konkan. The north Konkan plain now lay at the Mughal's mercy. The Emperor quickly appointed Matabarkhan, a shrewd general to hold and administer the important region of north Konkan, now known as district Thana, alongwith the charge of Nasik and Sangamner. Aurangzeb's orders to Mutabarkan were as follows: "After the arrival of Qadim Quli Khan, the Konkan should be entered from all sides. The forts of Mahuli and the other forts of that region be taken and Thanas (outposts) be established in Kalyan, Bhivandi and other places where required. The whole area could be considered under your jurisdiction until further orders".[1]

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[1] Pagadi, Studies in Maratha History, Vol. II, letter 5, p.24.

On 11th March 1689, Matabarkhan received the Emperor's orders to march against Mahuli. After collecting sufficient force from the other Mughal Thanedars, Matabarkhan started from Nasik. Resuming his march on 3rd April by way of the Kashtighat (4 miles north-east of Birvada), Birvada (4 miles north-east of Atgaon railway station) he reached Khardi, 9 miles north-east of Mahuli on the 17th".[1]

How the entire Konkan came under the possession of Matabarkhan and how he became the unrivalled master of almost over fifty forts in that territory will be explained hereafter.

By the end of June 1689, the Khem Sawant of Sawantwadi became disloyal to the Marathas. He informed Aurangzeb that he would help Mughal armies in that territory by way of supply of foodgrains and establishing thanas. He also promised to open the road to Goa.[2]

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[1] Ibid., Letter 7, p.25. This book contains English translation of Persian letters of Matabar Khan written by his Munshi (chief writer) Jetha Mal. They have been translated by Shri Setu Madhavrao Pagadi and published through this book by the Shivaji/University in 1971.

[2] Kulkarni, op.cit., p.139.

On reaching Kalyan Matabarkhan found that the area had been devastated. There was no provision of water, nor were food or grass available. Provision for the invaders (Mughals) had to be ordered from Surat.

On 18th March 1689, Matabarkhan left village Khirdi and marched further. He got the news that about 1000 infantry soldiers of theenemy had emerged from the fort of Mahuli. They had taken up positions on theapproaches of difficult pass. On receipt of this news Matabarkhan despatched Bakshi Haji Ahmad Beg, Vikram Shripat, the zamindar of Jawar and other officers alongwith horsemen, infantry and musketeers. The battle raged for three hours and was fought with guns and arrows. Many of the Maratha soldiers were killed or wounded. They fled from the field. Such was the report from Matabarkhan to the Emperor[1].

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[1] Pagadi, op.cit., p.26.
Sarkar, Aurangzib, V, p.115.

From Mahuli Matabarkhan came to Kalyan on 27th March 1689 and then laid siegeto Durgadi, a fort overlooking Kalyan. He promised Aurangzeb to set up the administration of the district soon. He explained to the Emperor that the fort of Mahuli was the headquarters of Talkonkan. There were no imperial thanas nearby. The fort had a good supply of provision. The fort is a very strong one. To lay siege to the fort, Matabarkhan wanted to set up military posts around the fort for which an infantry force of five to six thousand was needed. He, therefore, decided to acquire the forts in the area by deceit and establish contact with Dwarkaji Hawaldar of the fort and other men of his garrison asking them to accept royal service. They were promised mansabs, rewards and other royal favours. They agreed to surrender the fort of Mahuli and the adjacent forts of Mahendragad, Pasalgad and others to the Mughals on receipt of sanads to them from the Emperor.[1] Contents of the newsletter from Matabarkhan, delighted the Emperor, who issued orders accepting all the suggestions made by Matabarkhan. Matabarkhan handed over 2500 gold sovereigns to the custodian of the fort of Mahuli and obtained its possession. Killedar Khan was appointed as custodian of the fort according to Emperor's order. The Emperor also appointed Muhammad Safi as the Daroga of the fort of Chaul.[1]

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[1] Pagadi, op.cit., 9, p.27

On receiving all the forts in the vicinity of Talkonkan in the royal domains, Mutabarkhan wanted Daulatman (who was posted at Khirdi) a place 12 Kos from Mahuli and 18 Kos from Kalyan, as a thanedar of Chaul. But the Emperor asked Matabarkhan to depute Ahmed Khan as fauzdar at Chaul and entrust the duties of watching the area around Kalyan and the passes to Daulatmand Khan.[2] This order was carried out by Matabarkhan.[3] Thereafter, Matabarkhan concentrated his attention on the capture of fort Prabhalgad. This fort was very strong and unrivalled amongst the forts of Konkan. Under

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1. op.cit., L11, p.28.
2. Ibid., Studies in Maratha History, II, L.10, p.28.
3. Ibid., L.11, p.28.

the Marathas it was the headquarters of the District. Matabarkhan planned to obtain it by force. Immediately he collected 900 infantry men from the Kolis and Bhils. To these added the troops raised by the Zamindars. He also despatched his officers to help them. These troops seized the opportunity and on the night of 17th July 1689, at the height of the heavy rains, scaled the walls of the fort. The garrison fought. The fight lasted till the break of dawn. Many of the garrison were killed and many were wounded. Many fell from the fort and died. Some of them surrendered and were captured. Some of the Mughal troops were also killed and some were injured. But the fort came into the possession of the Mughals. Matabarkhan sent the keys of the fort to the Emperor along with one Shaikh Abdul-Salam who was the first to climb the fort by means of a rope. As this man had exerted well in this campaign his name was recommended for the award of a mansab by Matabarkhan to the Emperor. He also requested the Emperor to appoint a custodian of this fort along with troops to defend the fort. He also mentioned in the letter that formerly an imperial officer Kesar Singh was in charge of the fort. During the reign of

Shivaji a garrison of 500 infantry soldiers had been posted to this fort. Until the arrival of the new custodian with the Emperor's orders Matabarkhan appointed Shaikh Muhammad Ishaq with the infantry soldiers to guard the fort. Subsequently, he also acquired forts Karnala, Mukutgad, Khotora, Jamdhari, Tilanggad, Manikgad, Sankshi[1] and Durgadi. Thus he got all the forts and territory in the north Konkan from the Koli country to the southward of Bombay into the possession of the Mughals.[2]

Mutabarkhan also informed the Emperor of the administrative set up of north Konkan under the imperialists as follows:

"Vikram Sripat, Raja of Jawhar, imperial servant, is holding the Thana of Bhiwandi and other places. Ovulrao is posted in the Thana of Panvel and Sanksha. Ahmed Khan is managing the Thana of Hatoli well. Govindrao is in the Thana of Kasgaon and Murbad".[3]

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[1] 5 miles N.E. of Pen in Raigad District. Shivaji Souvenier, p.80.

[2] Pagadi, Ibid., Letter No.12, pp.29-30.
Sarkar, Aurangzib, V, p.116.

[3] Pagadi, op.cit., Letter 12, p.30.

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Thus Matabarkhan established strong military outposts at Kalyan, Bhiwandi, Pen, Panvel and Murbad in the Konkan. He held the region firmly in the face of strong Maratha attacks. How his achievements brought lustre to the Mughal arms in that quarter of Konkan is aptly written by his Secretary, Jeth-Mal in the introduction to his letter book as follows:

"The Khan captured about 50 forts which Shivaji had seized in his life time. He cleared the hills from Aurangabad to the sea, especially the Nizamshahi Konkan plain and the district of Junnar from the impure dust of the presence of the infidels. The Thana of Kalian and other paraganas in North Konkan had been ruined by twenty years unbroken Maratha predominance. These he recovered, strengthened, colonised and caused to be cultivated again and beautified with new mansions, gardens, canals, etc.[1]"

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[1] Sarkar, Aurangzib, V, p.117.

Matabarkhan fought for one year in the region of Konkan and captured all the forts in the area. In the Thana of Kalyan he constructed the following attractive buildings and spent his days in happiness.

(1) A mansion for himself. In the mansion, there was a big drawing room (Diwankhana), a garden, a canal and a fountain. This was constructed in the year October 1689 to September 1690.

(2) A mosque, a hammam (bath), a beautiful garden, a pleasure house, a strong fort in the town of Kalyan and a Diwankhana - a beautiful and attractive building for holding festivals and other conferences. This was constructed in (1695-1696). Matbarkhan's wife died in 1696-97. (3) He constructed a tomb in her memory near the tank of Senala in Kalyan. He spent a lakh of Rupees on the construction of the tomb. The building was completed in 1117 A H (1705 to 1706).[1]

In October 1693 Matabarkhan concentrated his attention to conquer the fort of Siddhagad which is at a distance of 12 Kos from the fort of Mahuli. The Marathas had made it their lease and they were aiming at attacking the fort of Mahuli. For six months previous to that, the Mughals were exerting to capture the fort. On 20th October, 1693, the infantry men including Lomanji Mavla employed in the Mughal service got the opportunity. In the last hours of the night they threw ropes to the ramparts of the fort and reached the top of the fort. After a stiff fight in which the Killedar of the fort was injured and captured, they succeeded in taking possession of the fort. On receipt of the news Khandoji Kadam and Dama Narayan, the two Maratha chiefs, rushed to Sidhagad from the fort of Rajmachi with a strong infantry force and cavalry. When Matabarkhan heard this news he despatched reinforcement of a force of 300 and 1,500 infantry which reached the base of the fort with all speed. Fighting started and there was gun firing. There was a fight between the parties. The fighting went on till the break of dawn. At last the Mughals won a victory. The victorious troops were engaged in capturing other forts in the vicinity.[1]

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[1] Pagadi, op.cit., p.31.

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[1] Bagadi, op.cit., Letter 14, p.32.

Thereafter, the Mughals must have captured the fort of Karnala. The Sidi of Janjira controlled most of the present district of Raigad. Excepting Pen and Panvel, Raigad seems to have been constituted into a separate district and was outside the jurisdiction of Matabarkhan. The Maratha chief Angre, from his headquarters at Alibag, was already threatening the sea coast held by the Mughals. The Marathas lost no opportunity of falling upon the Mughal military posts. On 29th March 1694, they attacked the Mughal outpost at Pen. The description is as follows:

"Mughal Thanas have been established in Konkan recently. The Thana of Pen was held by Anji Adhal Rao. He was transferred. Matabarkhan asked his officer Shivaji, the son of Talangrao to hold the Thana of Panvel, Aur and Pen. Shivaji Telangrao maintained an infantry of 400 soldiers at Pen and strengthened that place. When Shankraji Pandit came to know of this he gave orders to capture the Thana of Pen. Accordingly Maratha force gathered at Rajmachi and on the 12th of Shaban captured Pen".[1]

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[1] Pagadi, op.cit., p.17.

Throughout his terms as officer at Kalyan, Matabarkhan was continuously fighting against the Marathas in the Konkan region although the Konkan region was included in the imperial dominions in 1693.

Matabarkhan was posted at Kalyan in Konkan region in 1689 April. Within a year he raised an infantry garrison force of 2000 and captured all the forts in Kalyan Prant area. Without utilising government equipment, he ensured the protection of the forts in the area. He also made similar arrangements for the Thanas under him. In recruiting the infantry and in entertaining cavalry more than required under the rules, he had raised funds and incurred a debt of Rs 2,50,000. Therefore, Matabarkhan requested for the funds from the Emperor who paid him only 50,000 rupees.[1]

Previously Shripat,the Raja of Jawhar,died while serving the Mughals at Nasik. His son Vikram Shripat who was at that time four years old was brought up by his mother Gaurai and administered her estates well. The Emperor on receiving petition from the boy bestowed on him the mansab and the title on Shripat. Thereafter, he served the Government. He wrested the estate of Jawhar from the hands of the enemy. He captured Kohij and other four forts and included them in the imperial domains. He was actively engaged in serving the Emperor. Matabarkhan, on arriving in Konkan, established thanas in that region and appointed Vikram Sripat as the Thanedar of Bhiwandi. He managed that thana well. Vikram Sripat died while serving the Emperor. The death of Vikram Sripat caused great distress among the Kolis. To console them his son was given mansab by the Emperor on recommendation from Matabarkhan.[1]

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[1] Pagadi, op.cit., II, p. 36.

Narayan Deo, the Raja of Ramnagar who was in imperial service, was holding a mansab of 1500 Zat and 600 cavalry. He was attached to the forces serving under Matabarkhan. He died on duty. His son Hardee who was 14 years old was given the gift of ten thousand rupees and an elephant and old mansab in order that he would serve the Mughals and would not join the Marathas. It was expected of him to prevent disturbances breaking out in that territory.[1]

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[1] Pagadi, Studies in Maratha History, II, L.18, p.34.

In June 1702 the Mughals captured the fort of Khelna from the Marathas.[2]

Shaikh Ahmad and Zainul Abidin were the sons of Matabarkhan's sister. They served in the Mughal army in the Konkan region for nine years from 1689 to 1698. Matabarkhan recommended them to the Emperor for giving them better pay.[3]

In 1697 Dhanaji and other Maratha chiefs invested Bijapur. Matabarkhan came to know that Dhanaji intended to proceed to Kalyan and Bhiwandi. Therefore, Matabarkhan took steps to protect the Thanas under him. But Matabarkhan informed the Emperor about the disturbances created by the Marathas everywhere. As the troops under him were small in number he could not stop the Maratha depredations in Konkan region.[4] The Maratha disturbances in the Konkan region were so great that no Mughal officer exerted to fight the Maratha chiefs and to put them down.[5]

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1. Pagadi, op.cit., L.22, p.37.
2. Ibid., L. 25, p.39.
3. Ibid., L. 27, p.39.
4. Ibid., L.31 & 32, p.41.
5. Ibid., L.33, p.43.

In 1689 they were considered to be crushed, but by 1693 they had gradually and firmly raised their head in Maharashtra in general and Konkan in particular. The singular success of the Maratha army under Santaji and Dhanaji achieved at Jinji, enlivened the spirit of the Marathas in Maharashtra and Konkan. The terror these two generals caused in the rank and file of the Mughal army at Jinji had greater impact on homeland. The morale of the Marathas had been elevated considerably high. They regained the lost faith in the existence of their state and thus their activities were intensified with great confidence in all parts of Maharashtra including Konkan[1].

When Matabarkhan came to know that the Portuguese were secretly helping the Marathas against the Mughals he attacked Bassein. Therefore the Portuguese lodged complaint against Matabarkhan with Aurangzeb. The Emperor asked Matabarkar to maintain amicable relations with the Portuguese.

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1. Kulkarni, The Mughal-Maratha Relations, p.156.

On receipt of Aurangzeb's advice Matabarkhan informed Sidi Yaqut Khan that the Portuguese obeyed the orders of the Emperor and that it was agreed to maintain peace, and himself wrote letters of assurance to the Portuguese.[1] The port of Chaul was beyond the jurisdiction of Matabarkhan. Even he addressed a letter to Hakim Muhasin Khan, Faujdar of the port informing him that taking into account the disturbances created by the Marathas everywhere he should administer the port of Chaul with at least 300 cavalry and 1000 infantry.[2] On his arrival at Kalyan from Nasik, Matabarkhan laid siege to the fort of Durgadi and captured it. He found that the region of Konkan was devastated. Therefore, he requested Sidi Yaqut Khan to instruct the traders in his territory to convey provisions of food and other articles in the Mughal territory as the army personnel were put to great trouble owing to scarcity of goods.[3] In the meantime

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1. Pagadi, op.cit., L.38, p.46.
2. Ibid., L.51, p.50.
3. Ibid., L.52, p.50.

Matabarkhan came to know that the Emperor issued a firman appointing Fatch Jang Khan as the Faujadar and custodian of fort Raigad who got apology from the English for their misdeeds.[1]

Matabarkhan was ordered by the Emperor to investigate the condition of destroyed mosques and religious schools in the region of Talkonkan during Sambhaji's regime. Matabarkhan made the report as follows:

"In this region there were many places populated by Muslims. In the villages there were mosques and religious schools. Religious minded people used to derive benefits from these institutions. In the disturbances created by the Marathas the region became extremely desolate."

"Religious minded and learned Muslims who had dispersed have come back to their places and are propagating the law of the Shariat. In the town of Kalyan, in the town of Bhiwandi, in the town of Panvel and in the town of Sanola and in the Mahals under me there are many Muslims and Muslim schools. The demand for more schools and Jame mosques is reasonable".[2]

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1. Pagadi, op.cit., L.54, p.51.

2. Ibid., L.68, p.58.

Due to disturbances by the Marathas in the Talkonkan and non-cooperative attitude of some of the Mughal officers holding offices within his jurisdiction of Talkonkan, Matabarkhan seems to have entered into an understanding with the Marathas by sharing the revenue of his province with them. This practive was adopted by the Mughal officers in the districts, when they found that they were receiving less and less help from the Emperor in their fight with the Marathas. According to the English records, sometime after 1700 A.D. Matabarkhan started paying 1/3 of the revenues to the Marathas. He constructed a number of buildings at Kalyan. Of these, only the tomb of his wife andtthe mosque survived to the present day. Matabarkhan seems to have died at the end of 1705. He was succeeded as faujdar by Zaimuddin Ali Khan, his kinsman and nephew of the famous Mullah Ahmad, the Governor of Kalyan during the time of Shivaji II. Zainuddin continued in his post till 1719 A.D. When according to the Mughal-Maratha agreement, the province of Kalyan came into the hands of the Marathas.[1]

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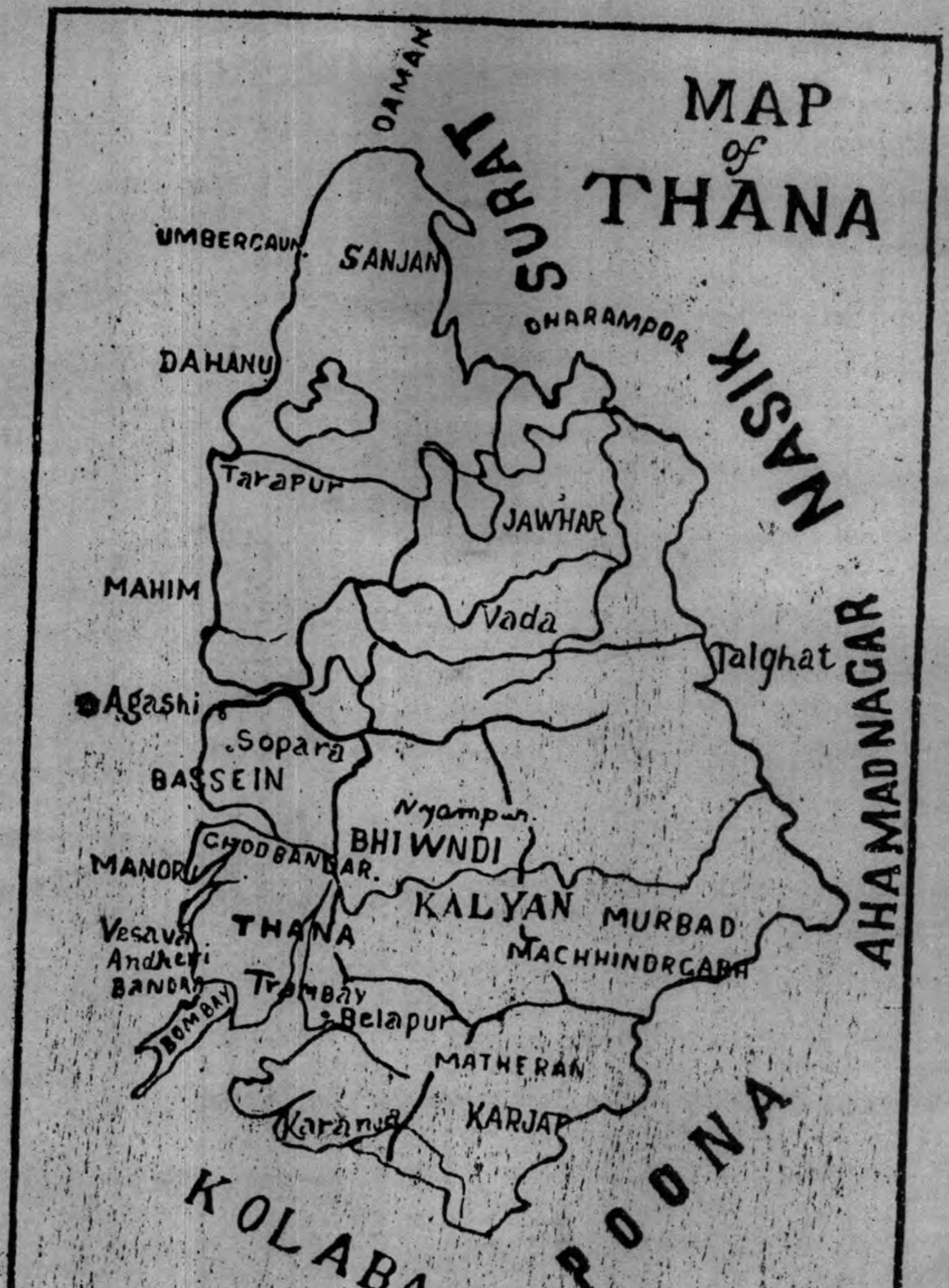
[1] Pagadi, op.cit., p.18.


MAP of THANA
DAMAN
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DHARAMPOR
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Agashi
Sopara
BASSEIN
Nyampur
BHIWNDI
CHODBANDAR.
MANORI
KALYAN
MURBAD
Vesava
THANA
Andheri
MACHHINDRGARH
BANDRA
Trombay
BOMBAY
Belapur
MATHERAN
Karanja
KARJAT
KOLABA
POONA

CHAPTER : IV

PORTUGUESE AND THE MARATHAS.

(1658-1732)

We have already noticed that the Portuguese had gained the Bassein province from the Sultan of Gujarat in 1534. In 1556 the Portuguese Governor, Francisco Barreto, took Asheri and Manora Fortresses and in 1559, the Portuguese Viceroy captured the fort of Daman. By about 1580, the Portuguese were ruling Div, Daman, the island of Bombay, Bassein and Chaul in North Konkan. In 1665, the Portuguese handed over the island of Bombay to the British.

The Portuguese established their mastery over the Indian Ocean in the 16th century and they prohibited the ships of other nations from plying it without -- Portuguese permit.[1] During Shivaji's regime the Portuguese were a maritime power. The Portuguese had conflicts with the Marathas and both fought several battles in the Indian Ocean. It is interesting to know how in Konkan Shivaji dealt with the Portuguese.

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[1] Parvate, Portuguese Mahratta Relations, p.2.

Portuguese-Maratha relations in Konkan (1658 to 1707) :

Shivaji swooped on the North Konkan which included Bassein and Chaul belonging to the Portuguese. To prevent further incursions of Shivaji into their possessions, the Portuguese strengthened the military posts in Chaul by posting eighty soldiers there to have a watch in camps as well as in Korlai.[1] Shivaji became powerful by conquering territory in the North Konkan and maintained many naval vessels at Bhivandi, Kalyan and Panvel ports in the Bassein district. This had alarmed the Portuguese who ordered their captain to prevent the Maratha navy in the sea and also to check their activities.[2]

Capture of a large territory of Adilshah's kingdom in the north Konkan by Shivaji alarmed the Portuguese Governor who wrote on 28th December, 1658 thus : Shivaji goes on annexing lands from the kingdom of Adilshah. If he continues thus he willl very shortly become master of the entire kingdom of Adilshah. Thus Shivaji is favoured by Aurangzeb."[3]

In another Portuguese letter dated 222-3-1660, it was stated that the Adilshah had lost major part of his kingdom to Shivaji who came very close to Bijapur.

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1. Kakodkar, Portuguese and Marathas, P. 4.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid. P. 5.

Shivaji defeated many captains of King Adilshah, in-flicting loss of men and horses that composed the kings' main power. On the strip of the sea and in the inland he had taken many cities, villages and other places. He had also amassed much wealth."[1]

The rare Military acumen of Shivaji quickly grasped the importance of sea-power and organised the fleet which began to dispute the soverignty of the sea hither to claimed by the Portuguese. At that time, the Portuguese had in their possession, Bassein, Thana, Revdanda and Goa. Goa was the seat of their Government on the west Coast of India. In the 17th century, the Portuguese became so powerful that they did not allow any ship to ply in this sea without their dastak. Soon, the Portuguese became the unchallenged masters of the Indian Ocean.[2]

The Portuguese considered that the Indian Ocean was their "private estate" and that no one else could use it without their permission. Ships, not in possession of the Portuguese papers, used the sea at their own risk. The permits or cartaz, were sold at fairly reasonable prices but they imposed the most vazatious restrictions upon the ships that carried them. They were not permitted

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1. Ibid.
2. Khobrekar, "Shivaji Maharaj - A Sea king", article published in "Lokrajya," 1st April, 1980, Pp. 40-41.

to carry christian slaves and were forbidden to visit any ports belonging to the enemies of the Portuguese; they were also forbidden to trade in the items of merchandise which the Portuguese chose to declare as their monopoly. Ships found without cartaz could be, and often were, seized by the Portuguese and made to pay heavy indemnities or, at times were sunk. The ships of the Indian rulers, including those of the Mughal Emperor and Shivaji were not exempt from the obligations of carrying the cartaz. The Portuguese retained the right of searching all ships; any Portuguese sea captain could accost a passing ship and demand to search it. Indian merchants did not dare to set out on their Voyages unless they were given their Cartaz by the Portuguese. Besides the Portuguese, the Sidi was very powerful and the sworn enemy of the Maratha state. He carried fire and sword everywhere on the western coast. In order to stop the monopoly of the Portuguese and prevent the Sidis depredations on the water and to starve him out and acquire soverignty of the Arabian sea, Shivaji planned to build up a navy.

According to Amatya, Shivaji considered the Navy as an independent limb of the Maratha State. Soverignty of the Sea, therefore, was the first objective of the Shivaji's navy. Between 1657 and 1659, Shivaji had set afloat the keel of his first ship in the creck of Kalyan.

During the next two years, he attacked Dabhol, sacked Rajapur and brought the Ratnagiri coast under his banner.

In 1659 Shivaji laid the foundation of the maratha navy. The Portuguese reported to His majesty (King of Portugal) that Shivaji had built some men of war in Bhivandi, Kalyan and Panvel, part in Bassein Taluka. The Portuguese used to build their ships in the several ports of Bassein Taluka. Shivaji built his first twenty armed ships with the help of skilled Portuguese carpenters and other artisans. Shivaji had declared that these ships were built to meet the menace of Sidi of Janjira. About 340 workmen, Portuguese and others, worked under the supervision of Portuguese artisan Roe Viegas.[1] Raja Jaisingh had also suspected that there were some Portuguese men in Shivaji's service and complained to that effect to the Portuguese viceroy at Goa. As result the Portuguese viceroy Antonio De Melo de Castro ordered all Portuguese in Shivaji's service to quit their job accordingly.[2] They fled to Bombay and Bassein.

Shivaji's fleet consisted mostly of galvetas. They were small but speedy which gave them an advantage over the slow, larger sized Portuguese ships.[3] As

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1. Parvate, op.cit., P. 36.
2. Sen, Studies in Indian History, pp. 12-13.
3. Parvate, op.cit., p. 37.

mentioned earlier, in the days of Shivaji the Portuguese considered themselves as supreme in the Indian Ocean. Trading ships from the territories of Bijapur, Delhi and Shivaji were required to secure permits from the -- Portuguese for plying in the Arabion sea. For securing these permits (cartazes) a fee had to be paid and certain conditions had to be complied with as stated above. The Portuguese often found Shivaji's ships without such permits and these ships were seized by them. Similarly, there were cases of Shivaji's ships seizing trading vessels from Portuguese in Konkan.[1] When Shivaji began to build up his fleet he declared that it was for use against the Sidi of Danda-Rajapri. In the Sidi-Shivaji conflicts, the Portuguese helped the Sidi.

We understand from the letter of 15th January 1664, addressed to His Majesty by the Viceroy that the Portuguese were following a compromising policy towards Shivaji who in turn reciprocated the same.[2] Soon after taking charge of the Government the Viceroy Antonio deMelo de Castro deputed his representative called Dom Alvaro de Ataide with a letter dated 26 April, 1663, requesting Shivaji to depute an envoy through whom some matters of mutual benefit might be discussed. The --

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1. Ibid. p. 39.
2. Kakodkar, Portuguese and Marathas, p. 6.
3. Ibid. P. 7.

Captain of Chaul wrote to the Governor of Goa in August 1664 that Shivaji was building 50 ships in Upper Chaul and that seven of them were ready to be set out into the sea.[1] The Portuguese adopted the policy of not obstructing their passage in view of Shivaji's ever growing power.[2] It was also reported by the Portuguese to their master that Shivaji had built many forts on the Konkan coast to protect his ships.[3]

When Shivaji attacked Sidi in July 1659, the Portuguese captains at Chaul and Bassein supplied food-grains to the Sidi and helped him in other ways also. Shivaji complained about this to the Portuguese Viceroy.* Because of this the Portuguese decided to help the Sidi secretly.[4] The Portuguese were well-disposed towards the Sidi and to persuade them openly to ally with him, the Sidi accepted Portuguese overlordshipx in 1667. In the middle of December 1664, a Muslim general of Bijapur called kawas Khan had set out with his army in the vicinity of Goa to punish Shivaji. He was assisted by Lakham Sawant and Keshav Naik of Pedne. Shivaji abruptly rushed through his lands and compelled him to give up Konkan and climbed up the Ghats. When the army of Khawas

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1. Parvate, op.cit., P. 36.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid., P. 37.

* Vice-Roi - A portuguese term for Viceroy.

4. Kakodkar, op.cit., P. 15.

Khan was defeated, his allies Lakham Sawant and others ran into Portuguese territory of Bardez for safety allowing Shivaji to become master of their land in Konkan.[1]

On this occasion Shivaji plundered Bicholim and the border area of Goa from Raibag to Sahapur. After this, Shivaji's authority prevailed in the Konkan except in Phonda and Panch Mahal. Lakham Sawant of Kudal, Keshav Naik and Keshav Prabhu of Pernem, Kalu Shenvi of - Bicholimall Desai's of Konkan who fought with Shivaji under the command of Khawas Khan, took shelter with the Portuguese in defferent places. Of these Desais, Lakham Sawant fought alongside Khawas Khan till the end and did not run away to Goa till 13th December 1664.[2] It is already stated earlier that in March 1665 Jaisingh and Delarkhan came to the Deccan to punish Shivaji, who got engaged with them till Feb. 1666. The treaty of Purandar was concluded by Shivaji with the Mughals. When the Mughals came to known that the Portuguese were sympathetic to Shivaji in the Surat affaris, Mughal captain Lodi Khan led an attack on Bassein territory, captured a number of villages and destroyed some. Finally, with great difficulty, the Portuguese entered into a treaty of friendship with Lodikhan.[3]

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1. Wakaskar, Sabhasadachi Bakhar, P. 71.
2. Parvate, op.cit., P. 43.
3. Ibid., P. 44.

In March 1666, Shivaji besieged the Phonda fort. The Portuguese thought it would be dangerous if the fort had gone into the possession of Shivaji, so they secretly supplied ammunition to the fort and also arranged secretly to escort all Konkan Desais, who were partisans of Bijapur, to the fort via the Chapera river. Due to Portuguese secret help Shivaji could not continue the operations therefore he withdrew the siege.

Vice-Rei Conde De San Vincento informed the king of Portugal about Shivaji's escape from Agra. After his escape from Agra, Shivaji regained all the territory of Konkan that Adilshah had taken from him except Phonda, Jambavali Panchmahal and Goa which were in the possession of the Portuguese. The Portuguese in Goa were trying to convert to christanity those Hindus who were resident in Bardez.* The viceroy had issued a notification on 21 September 1667 that all Hindus should quit the limits of Bardez within a period of two months. When Shivaji came to know this, he despatched an army of 1000 cavalry and 5000 infantry to Bardez on 19/20 November 1667.[1] For three days (20/22 November) Shivaji's troops plundered a number of villages and arrested hundreds of people.[2] They killed three priests and a number of christens.[3]

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*. Desai, M.I.S. (Portuguese Daftar) Vol. 3, P. 11.

1. Parvate, op.cit., P. 48.

2. Balkrishna on the authority of a letter from the Dutch states that Shivaji carried away 1600 captives, Shivaji I, p. 573.

3. Ibid., p.575.

As the Portuguese Viceroy had received news of the impending invasion of Bardez by Shivaji through his intelligence four days earlier, he had enough time to make arrangements for the protection of the Portuguese with the help of Keshav Naik, Lakham Sawant and other Desais who were then in Goa. But he was short of ammunition and men to meet onslaught of the Marathas. Therefore, Vice-rei Conde de San Vincente begged for the peace.

In the meantime the marathas entered Bardez and killed three priests and some christens in retaliation for the abduction and conversion of Shivaji's subjects especially Brahmans.[1] The Marathas captured many prisoners. The Dutch of Vengurla recorded that among the captured were women and children.[2]

On receipt of a letter from the Viceroy, Shivaji did not raise any objection for entering into a treaty of friendship with the Portuguese. The negotiations for a treaty between Shivaji and the Portuguese began after 20 November 1667. On 24 November, the Viceroy replied to Shivaji's letter saying that maintenance of peace between him and the Portuguese was in his (Shivaji's) hands. Shenvi Kothari carried a letter to Shivaji, who was then

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1. Sarkar, Shivaji, p. 352.
   Dr.Balkrishna, Shivaji Vol.I, p.507.

2. Dr.Balkrishna, op.cit., p.573.

at Bicholim near Goa.[1] After Shivaji's arrival at Raigad, he deputed sakopant as his envoy to Goa. It was with this envoy that the Portuguese Viceroy concluded a treaty of friendship with Shivaji on 5 December 1667. With the text of the treaty a Portuguese envoy, Padre, Gonsalo Martence, came to Raigad and the treaty was endorsed by the Maratha Government on 12 December, 1667.

As mentioned in the treaty, the women who were captured during the invasion of Bardez were restored to the Viceroy of Goa after the treaty of friendship was concluded. As a matter of fact, women and children from enemy territory always received protection in times of war from Shivaji's soldiers.[2] Shivaji's strict instructions to his army was, as stated by Sabhasad in his chronicle, that in foreign territory no woman or child should be molested.[3] The Portuguese Viceroy Conde de San Vincente informed the king of Portugual that Shivaji duly returned all the plunder and women and children, that his troops had seized, according to the treaty.

The year after coronation i.e. 1675, on 18 April, Shivaji laid siege to the fort of Ponda. The fort commander was one Mohamed Khan. Shivaji had taken a pledge from the

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1. Balkrishna, Shivaji, Vol.I, p.574.
2. Parvate, op.cit., p.54.
3. Wakaskar, Sabhasadachi Bakhar, p. 27.
   ILLIOT and Dowson, Vol.VII, Khafikhan, p. 260.

Portuguese to remain neutral. But they secretly tried to supply men and grain to Ponda. The Marathas captured and arrested them. The English factor at Karwar says in his letter of 18 May, 1675 that Shivaji had captured the fort. Thus the Marathas captured the fort about 16 May 1675. Adilshah's chronicle, Basatin us salatin says that Phonda fort was captured by Shivaji on 15 Safar[1], 1086.[2]

The adjacent villages came under maratha -- administration. In the same month, Shivaji captured Shiveshwar, Ankola forts and Karwar.[3] Shivaji's writ now ran in all of the Bijapur Konkan. In this way Shivaji captured all the Bijapur territory below the ghats till the Mirjan river. On occupation of the Phonda fort by the Marathas, one Trimbak Pandit was appointed as killedar by Shivaji.[4]

Thereafter, the Portuguese came into conflict with Shivaji when the latter demanded "Chawthai" of Daman from the Portuguese in 1671. It so happened that the Koli Raja of Jawhar rebelled against the Chauthiya Raja in 1670 and demanded from the Portuguese that the "Chauthai"[5] be paid

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1. Bendre, *Coronation of Shivaji the great*, pp. 35-43.
2. Balkrishna, *Shivaji,Vol.II,*part I, pp. 139-140.
3. Sen, *Foreign Biographes of Shivaji*, p. 147.
4. Parvate, *op.cit*.,p. 57.
5. Chauthai means a fourth part of the revenue. After the Sultans of Gujarat had conquered Daman, the people of Daman used to pay 25% of the revenue from the villages to the Rajput Princes (known as Sarset) in order that they should not molest them. After Daman passed to the Portuguese hands the Rajput princes continued to recover it from the people as they had done before. This led to brawls and skimishes between the Portuguese and the

to him.

The Portuguese agree to pay 'Chauthai' to the Raja of Jawhar. In order to Subhue the Koli Raja of Jawhar, the Portuguese captain of Daman in December 1671, secretly requested Shivaji to punish him. Accordingly Moropant Pingle, the Peshwa of Shivaji, attacked Jawhar and put the Koli Raja to rout.[1] Still the Raja of Ramnagar did not surrender to the Marathas. After having taken most of the territory of Ramnagar, the Marathas demanded the 'Chauthai' of Daman from the Portuguese. But on the excuse that the whole of the Ramnagar raj had not been conquered, the Portuguese kept with them as deposit the 'Chauthai' from 1671 to 1677 and did not pay it either to Ramnagar or to Shivaji. Even so the Portuguese recorded that Shivaji did not harm Daman in any way.[2]

In January 1677, Shivaji completed the conquest of Ramnagar and then demanded 'Chauthai' from the -- Portuguese. The Portuguese became ready to pay the Chauthai to Shivaji from the date on which his conquest of Ramnagar was completed, the arrears were not to be paid. For a long time the correspondence regarding 'Chauthai' was

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Continued from previous page - forces of the Chawthia Raja. The Portuguese made agreement to pay the tax in cash to the representative of the Raja at Daman, Parvate, op.cit., p.58.

[1] Ibid.

[2] Ibid.,p. 59.

continued between Shivaji and the Viceroy but on one pretext or the other, they did not pay the dues to the last.[1]

However, a tax called Gavkhandi was paid to Shivaji by the Portuguese from Tarapur and Sayban parganas of Bassein province in 1677.[2] The Portuguese paid this tax also to the Chauthiya Raja.

In August 1676, the General of Bassein came to know that the maratha force was gathered near Kalyan and Bhivandi for attacking salsette. In 1679 the relations between the Portuguese and Shivaji deteriorated considerably. The Governor of Goa kept 5000 infantry ready near Concolim, surmising that Shivaji would attack Salsette in Goa. The Portuguese planned to attack Ponda before the Marathas invaded Goa. The Marathas, under the leadership of Mahadaji Anant, were ready for fight. Just then came the news of Shivaji's death and the Maratha troops that had gathered on the Goa border, hastilly withdrew and the conflict was averted.[3]

THE Portuguese in Konkan cowed by Sambhaji

Immediately after the death of Chhatrapati Shivaji (3rd April 1680), Sambhaji tried to enter into a treaty of friendship with the Portuguese by deputing his personal envoy Ramaji Naik to Goa. After the Portuguese welcomed Sambhaji's suggestion and requested him to finalise it by delegating necessary powers to the envoy who would be commissioned to negotiate with the Portuguese on his behalf. After becoming master of the Maratha - kingdom, Sambhaji did not seem to have a proper atmosphere around him for a long time in which he could think about finalising a treaty of peace with the Portuguese. But Sambhaji wanted to maintain peace in Konkan. Therefore, on listening complaints from the Portuguese against Moro Dadaji, Subhedar of Bicholim, Sambhaji removed him from that post and appointed Jivaji Vinayak in his place.[1]

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[1] Ibid., p. 60.

[2] A.V.Joshi and Aba Chandorkar, Shri Shiv Shahicha Lekhanalankar, p. 31; The tax was a fixed cess per Khandi of grain to be recovered from peasants in all villages, Parvate, op.cit. p. 61.

[3] Ibid., p. 61.

At the beginning of 1682, Sambhaji took Anjediv, island off Karwar and made preparations to build a fort there. In this the Portuguese saw the danger to their interest and promptly occupied it on 5th May 1682 and constructed a strong fort on it for its defence.[2]

In 1682 (August) the Portuguese Viceroy learnt that the Mughal army was marching against Sambhaji after much preparation. The Viceroy issued orders to his -- officers at Chaul, Bassein and Daman to allow a passage to the Mughal army through the Portuguese territories.[3]

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1. Parvate, _op.cit_., p. 77.
2. _Ibid_., p. 78.
3. _Ibid_., p. 79.

The Portuguese also constructed a fort at Parsik near the creek of Kalyan, when they learnt about the efforts of Sambhaji to construct a fort there in order to obstruct the Mughal ships which were to move in the Kàlyan-Bhivandi area.[1] It appears that in the war of the Mughals against Sambhaji, the Portuguese expected a victory of the Mughals and for that reason they helped the Mughals against him in order to secure from them the territory of south Konkan which they had wished to possess since long.[2]

As a result of the Portuguese help to the Mughals against the Marathas, Sambhaji's troops had started -- skirmishes against the Portuguese since May, 1681.[3] The Portgguese act of allowing the Mughal ships to carry grain ships through the Thana creek enraged Sambhaji. He opened a war front against the Portuguese in North Konkan, through which they had given a passage to the Mughal troops against the Marathas.[4]

During 1683 Sambhaji personally attacked the Portuguese at Chaul and Goa. With the help of one thousand cavalry and two hundred infantry Sambhaji attacked and sacked the Portuguese town of Tarapur.[5] The siege of Chaul

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1. Ibid., p. 80.
2. Ibid., p. 81.
3. Gokhale, Sambhaji, p. 169.
4. Ibid.
5. Sarkar, Augangzib, IV, p. 226.

was continued without success; but Karanja was taken possession of and retained for nearly a year. Several places belong to the Portuguese between Bassein and Daman were attacked and destroyed.[1] The Marathas besieged the fortress of Chaul on 20th June 1683 and attacked the Portuguese fort of Korlai (Marro de Chaul). But the Portuguese repulsed their attack. The siege of the - fortress of Chaul was continued by the Maratha troops for the next six months under the command of Nilo Moreshwar, the Peshwa of Sambhaji.[2] On 22-23 July, 1683, the Marathas launched an assault on the Revdanda fort, but the Portuguese repulsed it.[3] Don Manoel Lopode Silveria was the general of the Bassein at this time with one battalion of infantry. He, therefore, sought the help of Sidi Yukutkhan of Janjira who supplied 400 men to the Portuguese. So, de Silverias battalion and Sidi's 400 soldiers were taken by sea to Revdanda.[4]

Early in the morning of 8th August the Marathas made an assault on the city of Chaul. They attacked the walls with many scaling ladders, which they easily set up, there being very few to oppose them. But the alarm being sounded, religious and laymen flew to the walls and threw

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1. Danvers, Portuguese in India, Vol.II, p. 370.
2. Gokhale, Sambhaji, pp. 173-174.
   Sarkar, Aurangzib IV, p. 226.
3. Parvate, op.cit., p. 82.
4. Ibid., p. 82.

down the scaling ladders. The Marathas suffered great loss and in a short time were forced to abandon their attempt.[1]

The Marathas in August 1683 again attempted to take the fortress of Morro (Korlai) which is upon the mountain at the mouth of the city of Chaul.

The Marathas set six spies from the side facing the land to scale the bastion of the fortress. The spies scaled the wall of the bastion but were caught and being put to torture confessed the purpose of their coming. The Portuguese then discharged their guns with such disastrous effect upon the Marathas, that they withdrew with the loss of more than 500 men.[2]

The Marathas gained some success in the Portuguese territory on the coast north of Bombay. On 2nd September 1683 Maratha men began to destroy the ripe crops at the village of Anzor, near Bassein, but fled as soon as they saw the 25 European soldiers whom the captain of Fort Parsica had sent against them. The Portuguese in making a headlong pursuit fell into an ambush and most of them were killed.[3]

Both sides made active preparations during the closing months of the rainy season. In October 1683, the

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1. Sarkar, Aurangzib, IV, p.227.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid. p. 228.

siege of Chaul was pressed very close. Chaul lay in a desperate condition for some months. But the Marathas failed to take it.[1]

The Viceroy of Goa planned to make diversion by laying siege to Ponda which is 10 miles south east of Goa town and which was in the possession of the Marathas and attacked it. The Maratha soldiers managed to hold that fort against the Portuguese up to 9th November 1683. On the same day, Sambhaji rushed from Rajapur and reached that spot.[2] Thereupon the Portuguese army was completely outflanked and lost heart. So the Marathas safely entered the fortress of Phonda. The Portuguese Viceroy somehow managed to retreat to Goa.[3] From Phonda Sambhaji marched against Goa. A description of Portuguese-Maratha fight in Goa is outside the purview of this study. However, the Marathas and the Portuguese came to terms and concluded a peace treaty.[4]

By 1693 the Marathas planned to used the tactics of harassing the Mughal troops quite effectively with their small roving hands. In their effort, the support came from the local population and the Portuguese. -- Matabar Khan found that the Portuguese joined hands with the Marathas. They were raising disturbances in the Mughal

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1. F.R.Surat, 109, Bombay to Surat, 8 Oct.1683; Sarkar, Aurangzib, IV, p. 228.

2. Ibid., pp. 274-75.
   Parvate, op.cit. p. 25.

3. Manucci, Stovia Do Mogor, II, pp.246-248.

4. Shivacharitra Pradip, p.33

territory. They gave refuge to the families of the Marathas in their territory. They were aiming at -- inflicting attacks on the forts under Mughals. The Portuguese Officer D'mello called Shamji Moro from the fort of Khanderi. He arrived with an infantry of 1500 and was given a place in the town of Thana by the Portuguese. It was decided that the Portuguese would render assistance to the Marathas. The Marathas would then attack the fort of Mahuli. This was reported by Matabar Khan to the Emperor.[1] The Portuguese and the Marathas jointly inflicted great damage to the fort of Banalgad.

The peasants in the Mughal occupied territory in Konkan took shelter in the Portuguese territory. They jointly inflicted damage on the fort of Karnala. The Portuguese supplied provisions to the garrison of that fort. The result was that the cultivators fled and took shelter in the Portuguese territory.[2] Matabar Khan understood that the Portuguese and the Marathas had decided to attack Bhiwandi in great force.[3]

The acting Governor of Goa informed the king of Portugal by a letter dated 10 January 1691 that a number of Desais had abandoned the Mughal and joined Rajaram because they professed the same religion. Besides, the Muslims were notorious for assaulting their women and

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1. Pagadi, Studies in Maratha History, Vol.II, L.15,P.32.
2. *Ibid.*, L.39, p.46.
3. *Ibid.*, L.37, p.46.

demolishing their temples. On this occasion, the Portuguese policy in regard to the Mughals and the Marathas were equivocal. They played the parties against each other and deceived both. The fact of the matter was that the Portuguese were certain that Maratha rule would be re-established in Konkan and they, therefore, considered it more beneficial that Hindu rulers should be their neighbours than the Muslim.[1]

Matabar Khan found that the Maratha forces were drawing the support from the Portuguese territory. He warned the Portuguese that owing to such improper acts they would become victims of ~~the~~ wrath of the Emperor. The Portuguese did not heed Matabar Khan's advice.[2] Therefore, Matabar Khan got annoyed and decided to bring back the families of Tal Konkan region from the Portuguese territory who had gone from the Parganas of the Sarkar of Tal Konkan due to the disturbance of the Marathas.[3] He also asked Sidi Yaqut Khan, Janjira Chief, to march against the Portuguese by way of Salsette so that the Portuguese would then receive a lesson and obstain from giving shelter to the Marathas.[4] Matabar Khan himself attacked Bassein territory from Bhiwandi in 1692 and resorted to plunder and devastation. He also captured the fort of Sindhagad.[1] Thereupon the Portuguese lodged complaint against Matbar Khan in the court of Aurangzeb. With the Maratha war in hand, Auranggeb did not want to add to his difficulties. He ordered Matabar Khan to return the - captured goods and personnel to the Portuguese and forbade him from picking up quarrel with the Portuguese.[2]

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[1] Parvate, op.cit., pp.104-105.

[2] Pagadi, op.cit., L.39, p.47.

[3] Ibid.

[4] Ibid., L.37, p.46.

During the time of Shivaji the Portuguese did not succeed in asking Maratha ships to hold a cartaz from the Portuguese. But after the fall of Raigad in 1689 the Portuguese raised their head and they claimed the sovereignty of the sea and compelled the Maratha navigators to purchase their cartazas failing which their ships were confiscated.[3]

Kanhoji refused to accept the Portuguese control over the sea and made vigorous attempts to enforce his authority. He captured all ships which did not carry his pass. "Every ship was expected to sail with his (Angre's) cartazes failing which they were deemed legitimate prizes and sent under escort to one of the Maratha ports.[4]

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1. Ibid., L.38, p.46.
2. Matabar Khan was ordered by the Emperor to pay two lakhs rupees as compensation for the damages to the Portuguese, Pidsullencar, op.cit., p.105.
3. Sen, The Military System of the Marathas, pp.155-56, A letter dt.3 April, 1700, addressed to the Sidi of Janjira by the Portuguese is quoted in full by Sen in which the Portuguese conclude that they were the Sovereign of the seas and not the pirates.
4. Sen, Early Career of Kanhoji Angria and other Papers, P.9. This practice was continued by his successors. This was one of the reasons for the antagonism of European powers especially the English for the Angre.

In Konkan Kanhoji Angre was bent upon recovering all territories occupied by the Sidis during the period following the execution of Sambhaji. Hence immediately on assuming the chief commad of the Maratha fleet, Kanhoji came into a clash with the Sidis.

In the year 1699 Kanhoji gave a crushing defeat on the combined forces of the Sidis, the Mughals and the Portuguese and captured Sajargad and the country around and forced his opponents to come to an agreement. It was agreed that the revenue of Chaul should be divided between the Mughals and the Angre and that the revenue of Parhur, a village near Alibag, should belong to the Sidis.[1]

The English records give us a graphic picture of the incessant struggle between the Sidis and Kanhoji Angre in Konkan. A despatch of 6th March 1700 notes, "the Siddies lie full before Canlaby and Candry and the hath so great forces yet Marathas find a way with their galvett from one place to the other."[2] Tarabai personally led an expedition against the Sidi who was devastating Konkan. She ordered Malharrao Deshmukh to reach Chiplun by Kumberlen pass and herself marched to join him (Deshmukh)[3]

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1. Sect. Outward Letter Book 7, L.dt.14-1-1700, pp.110-1. Bombay Gazetteer, Vol.XI, (Kolaba), p.146. In a letter dated 14 January 1700 it is noted that there were several skirmishes between the Sidis and the Marathas.
2. Sect. Outward Letter Book 7, 6 March 1700, p.132.
3. Rajwade, *op.cit.*, vol.16, No.35.

The war went on without any pause. The Portuguese Captain of Chaul wrote in a letter dated 22 February 1701 :

"Twenty thousand Mahrattas under the command of Ramchandra Pant attacked the territory of Siddi Yakut Khan of Janjira and plundered it. They were going to do likewise in Korlai but the Captain of Korlai bombared them and they hastily retreated. The Mahrattas were in the Sidi's territory for a month. After their return, the Sidi fleet besieged the Angria fort of Kolaba and carried of fifty warships (galvetas). He sent an army to encircle the fort by land also. He asked for ships to carry his army beyond the creek and I supplied them."[1]

The English record dated 2 April, 1701, tells us that the Sidi had suffered heavily in a skirmish with the Marathas and had called a surgeon from Bombay to dress his wounded men.[2] How the Marathas at that time punished the Sidis and the Portuguese in Konkan is given by the contemporary writer as follows :

"As a sequel to the rampant outrages of the Sidi and the Portuguese, the whole of Konkan was devastated and very existence of Maharashtra Dharma was challenged. Sarkhel Kanhoji Angre, with the aid of his Valiant nobles such as Sekhroji Mohite, Ranoji Gole, Khandoji, Mankar Kharade and Hassan Khan Jamadar gave a crushing defeat to the Sidi and protected religion in the Konkan.[3]

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1. Parvate, op.cit., p.107.
2. Sect.Outward Letter Book 7, p.140.
3. Avalaskar, Angrekalin Ashtagar, p.3, note 12.

Caetano Mello de Castro arrived in India as the Portuguese Viceroy in the latter part of the year 1703 and took charge of the Government. On 2nd October 1703. His administration was chiefly noted for an endeavour to consolidate and extend the Portuguese power in the District bordering upon Goa (Konkan). Under his orders the fortress of Ambona belonging to Bhosle was razed to the ground; in 1705 he took the command in person for the capture and destruction of the castle of Bicholim and in the following year he subjugated and fortified the islands of Corjuem and Ponden.[1] In the beginning of June 1705, the Mughals took possession of Mardangad fort from Khem Sawant.[2] The above mentioned two islands were captured by Khem Sawant in the same year 1705. Therefore, in 1706 the Portuguese troops concentrated for an attack on the islands of Kharjuven and Paneli and finally took possession of these islands by defeating Khem Sawant.[3]

Having gained the Konkan territory from the Mughal Emperor as a Jagir for Chhatrapati Shahu the Marathas considered it a rightful and legitimate act to recover tribute from the Portuguese also. Actually the Mughal Emperor never had any authority over the territory of

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1. Danvers, Portuguese in India, II, p.375.
2. Mhamai, The Sawants of Wadi and the Portuguese, p.14.
3. Ibid., pp.18-20.

Konkan. When the Marathas expected tribute from Goa, the Viceroy evaded payment.[1]

According to the treaty of 1718 concluded by the Deccan Subahdar Husain Ali and later confirmed by the Emperor, Peshwa Balaji Vishwanath brought to Satara, the Sanads of the Sardeshmukhi rights from the Mughal Court in 1719. In the same year Kalyan and Bhivandi were evacuated by the Mughal garrison and was occupied by Ramchandra Mahadeo Chaskar on behalf of the Peshwa who now became the next door neighbour to the Portuguese.[2] Immediately on the establishment of their power at Kalyan the Marathas demanded tribute from the Portuguese which they refused saying that his country was not subordinate to the Mughal.[3]

In 1720, the Mughal claims to the Konkan were withdrawn. Thereupon, Peshwa Balaji Vishwanath drew up schemes for collecting and distributing the revenues and for preserving a common interest among the Marathas. Under the Peshwa's scheme, the Angre paid to the Satara ruler tribute in military stores and in European and Chinese wares. They were also sametime charged with the duty of executing state criminals.[4]

From now onwards Kanhoji's maritime activities must be viewed as a part of general struggle of the Maratha nation against the Sidis who were the Mughal representative afloat. The Chief objective to which Angre's polity was directed was to recover Maratha territory occupied by the Sidis during the interval that followed Sambhaji's -- execution and to teach the Western powers (the Portuguese, The English and the Dutch) to respect Maratha[1] sovereignty on the sea.

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[1] Parvate, op.cit., p.122.

[2] S.P.D., 30, Ls.308, 339; Rajwade, M.I.S.II, p.38.

[3] Parvate, op.cit., p.122.

[4] Grant Duff, Vol.I, p.344.

The Portuguese did not take kindly the peace treaty between the Marathas and the Sidis. They said in their letter dated 15 May 1715, addressed to the officer in the Mughal Army that if the Sidi had made some movements by land last year, when the Portuguese besieged Angre by sea at Colaba, it is certain that this rebel would have been annihilated.[2] They also expressed their anger to the Sidis as follows :

If your highness had not cherished so much -- friendship for this pirate, you would have cooperated with (us), with your ships and men for his destruction and ruin two years ago." A month later the Viceroy wrote to Asad Alikhan offering him naval assistance for the destruction of the Angria."[3]

The Portuguese did not rely on the Muhammadan alone for the destruction of their enemy Angre. They

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1. Grant Duff, *Mahratta History*, Vol.I, p.344.
2. Sen, *Studies in Indian History*, p.81.
3. *Ibid*., p.81.

approached Sambhaji Raja of Kolhapur, his former patron, who was hurt by the Angre for offering his allegiance to Shahu Maharaj. The Chhatrapati of Kolhapur willingly - concluded an alliance with the Portuguese on 23rd March 1716 to help each other in case of war against the Angre and Punish him.[1]

It does not appear that this new alliance had the desired effect, for Chhatrapati Sambhaji of Kolhapur was hardly competent to deal with a "martitime power which had defied the efforts alike of the Portuguese, Dutch and the Mahrathas".[2] Apartfrom the Portuguese, the Dutch and the English merchants had also suffered at his hands and they made repeated attempts to reduce his power and -- destroy his fleet. In 1713 the English concluded a peace with Kanhoji Angre and the Outstanding differences were settled apperently for good and to the satisfaction of the contracting powers. But the lasting peace was disturbed by Charles Boone, Governor of Bombay, by attacking Khanderi or Kenery, a small island which commands to the certain extent the harbour of Bombay on 3rd November 1718.[3] This island was occupied by Shivaji the great in 1679 and was transfered to Kanhoji's care in 1713.[4] Boone's expedition

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1. *Ibid.*, p.82-83.
2. *Ibid.*, p.84.
3. Sen, *Early Career of Kanhoji Angria and other papers*, p. 14.
4. Sen, *Military System of the Marathas*, p.199.

against Khanderi lasted eight days. He was successfully beaten back by Kanhoji, thus Boone's expedition ended in failure.[1] In the same year (1718), an engagement took place off Anjediv, between Angre's vessels and the two Portuguese ships. After a Stubborn fight the Angre was defeated.[2] In the same year the King of Ramnagar invaded the villages of Daman, capturing cattle and taking the cultivators of the soil prisoners. The Portuguese force went in pursuit of them and drove the invaders. The Raja was killed by a fall from his horse. His nephew, who succeeded him sued for peace which was accordingly agreed to.[3]

The Portuguese came to know of the Angre's policy of aggression in 1721. The Portuguese and the British concluded a treaty in which a mention was made that Kolaba when taken, was to be the property of the Portuguese and the fortress of Gheria* thirty leagues to the north of Goa was to be handed over to the English.[4] A few days before the treaty of alliance was concluded, the Angre wrote to the general of the north, Dom Antonio de Castro e Mello, to say that he was aware of the understanding between the

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1. Sen, op.cit., p.15-19.
2. Danvers, op.cit., Vol.II, p.383.
3. Ibid.
4. Danvers, op.cit., Vol.II, pp.390-91.

* Vijaydurg.

Portuguese and the English against him that he would resist them with 20,000 troops of his own. But finally he urged on the general to settle the differences with him amicably without provoking war.[1]

The viceroy sailed from Goa with his fleet and arrived on 1st December 1721 at Chaul. He was joined there with the troops from the northern provinces. The English fleet also joined them.[2]

The combined forces marched under the protection of their guns to a camp on the river Alibag. Here they found the Angre entrenched himself, So the Viceroy moved up the river and encamped on the heights within range of enemy; whereupon an artillery duel commenced. On 23rd December 1721, the Angre's army marched as if to attack the Portuguese position but they were silenced.[3] Now Kanhoji found it difficult to cope up with the combined forces and defeat them. He therefore requested Shahu Maharaj to send succour to him. So Bajirao Peshwa was deputed to Alibag to aid the Angre. On 30 December 1721, Bajirao I stationed 7000 cavalry at Alibag for the protection of the town.[4] On 1 January 1722 Bajirao informed the Portuguese

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1. Ibid., p.391.
2. Ibid., pp.391-2.
3. Danvers, op.cit., II, p.392.
4. Avalaskar, Angrekalin Ashtagara, p.7;
   Parvate, op.cit., p.124.

that his Chhatrapati was a friend of the Portuguese and that in his capacity as the Prime Minister he would help Kanhoji. He also said that for the protection of Kanhoji, he was ready to make war or peace with the Portuguese whatever was necessary.[1]

Knowing that he would be helpless before the Maratha forces, the Viceroy agreed to a cessation of hostitities pending negotiations.[2] Kanhoji now became so inflated that he boasted of easily capturing the Portuguese owned Chaul and Karanja. Within ten years he became the owner of Suvarnadurg and 22 forts. An ex-Governor of the Portuguese who was sailing from Chaul to Bassein in a pala was attacked by Kanhoji on the seas, captured and killed. Twenty six Portuguese made captive by him were taken to Kolaba and beheaded.[3]

After a conference lasting several days, a treaty of friendship between the Portuguese and the Marathas was concluded, but it did not last long.[4] On 26 November, 1723, Pillaji Jadhav, at the head of 40,000 horsemen invaded the Portuguese territory of Bassein, Saibana and Gokhirve.[5]

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1. Danvers, op.cit., p.392.
2. Moraes, "Kanhoji Angria's relations with the Portuguese," Journal of the University of Bombay, Vol.X,Part I, July 1941, p.45.
3. Danvers, op.cit., p.393.
4. Parvate, op.cit., p.125.
4. Ibid.
5. Dighe, Peshwa Bajirao I, p.164.

By way of retaliation the Portuguese plundered a number of villages in the Maratha territory. After receipt of a letter from Bajirao I the Portuguese made peace with him on 10 January 1724, by the Treaty of Varsoli.[1]

It was suggested by the Portuguese Officer at Bassein to the Viceroy of Goa on 5 December 1728, that the Marathas should be paid a small gift of Rs.2500 every year to avoid damage that the Portuguese had to suffer every year from Maratha depredations in Daman territory as was done by the Portuguese to the Chauthiya Raja.[2]

Although a peace treaty was concluded between the Portuguese and the Marathas on 10 January 1724,[3] the Portuguese had a fear that the Marathas would invade Bassein territory to recover tribute. This fear was not unfounded. In May 1728, Pilaji Jadhav plundered two Portuguese villages in the vicinity of Daman.[4] In retaliation, the General of Bassein attacked Kalyan in August and resorted to arson. The Portuguese Viceroy wrote that as a result of this assault on Kalyan, Bajirao came down and made a treaty at Bassein. There is reference to a treaty between the --

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1. Parvate, op.cit., p.125.
2. Ibid., p.126.
3. Ibid., .
4. Ibid.

Portuguese and Bajirao I.[1] In 1728, Ramchandra Chaskar died and was succeeded by his brother Krishnarao Mahadeo. A man of querulous temperament, his regime of three years was a failure.[2] In 1729, Kanhoji Angre died.[3] These -- Portuguese who were the Angre's captives wererelease on the day of his death.[4] In 1730 Antaji Raghunath and Ramchandra Raghunath Desai and Deshpande of Mahad near Bassein -- approached Bajirao and impressed upon him the need for a speedy action against the Portuguese.

Although the Portuguese had outwardly shown regard to Bajirao I, their tyranical behaviour with their Hindu subjects continued unabated. They made forcible conversions and stopped all religions practices of the Hindu by demolishing their temples and building churches instead. Hindu children when found alone were often stolen and converted to christianity. Their cruelties compelled many Hindus to leave their homelands and come to seek shelter in Maharastra. To save the situation and liberate the Hindu from the Portuguese tyranny. Bajirao I was approached by Antaji Raghunath and Ramchandra Raghunath Desai and -- Deshpande of Mahad, in 1730. They impressed upon him the need for a speedy action against the Portuguese. Thereupon

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[1] *Ibid.*, But the anther Pissurlencar says that the treaty is not traceable.

[2] Dighe, *Peshwa Bajirao-I*, p.165.

[3] Dhabu, *Kolabkar Angre*, *Angre Shakavali*, p.21.

[4] Parvate, *op.cit.*, p.127.

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Bajirao deputed Pilaji Jadhav early in 1731 against the Portuguese and despatched his brother-in-law Krishnaji Mahadeo to help him. Jadhav carried war in the enemy's country and captured two Portuguese ships and some - ammunition from the Kambe rivulet.[1] He also captured the Portuguese post of Kambe on 24 May 1731.[2] Therefore, the Portuguese got help of 700 soldiers from the English. The English General plunged in the operation with their ships which arrived in such an oppertune time that the Marathas gave up the plan to reach the island of Salsette.[3] The Marathas thought of capturing the Portuguese territory.[4] With this plan in mind they assiduosly thought of -- occuping some mountain places where they could safely and conveniently subsist.[5]

"On 1st March they gained possession of the - neighbouring country of fort Manora and cut off the water supply of the fort. In spite of the heavy fire kept up from the town the Marathas succeeded in constructing - entrenchments within pistol-shot, but reinforcements - arriving from Bassein on 5th March Obliged them to --

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1. Kelkar, Vasaichi Mohim, pp.46-47.
2. Parvate, op.cit., pp.127-128.
3. Kakodkar, The Portuguese and the Marathas (Tr.),p.174.
4. Parvate, op.cit., p.127.
   Forrest, Home Series II, p.48.
5. Kakodkar, op.cit., p.175.

abandon the siege and retired to the hills. Here they were attacked by the Portuguese and suffered several casualties."[1]

At this time the Marathas were in an embarrassing situation. In the north they were engaged with the Mughals and the Nizam. These engagements came in their way to come down to Konkan. To overcome these difficulties, Bajirao I proposed a treaty of peace with the Portuguese. The Portuguese were knowing that the Marathas were so powerful that they made the Mughals restless and their proposal for a peace treaty was not out of their weakness.[2] Even then "on 2nd October 1731, a force of 208 Portuguese and 562 sepoys arrived at Trumba and attacked the village of Panwell belonging to the Marathas, drove them out and set the place on fire."[3]

The Maratha envoy came to Bombay with peace -- proposal. A conference for peace was held in Bombay on 30th January 1732 in the presence of Robert Cowan, the Governor of Bombay.[4] In their negotiations for a peace treaty the Marathas did not give up two conditions : One was that

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1. Danvers, op.cit., pp.397-398.
2. Kakodkar, op.cit., pp.176-177.
3. Danvers, op.cit., pp.398-400.
4. Kakodkar, op.cit., p.177.

the Portuguese should pay them the same tribute that they were paying to Chauthiya Raja and Koli Raja and the other was that they must allow the Hindus in Portuguese territory to build temples.[1] From the Maratha side conference was attended by Shivram Pant and Rayaji Ramji who were deputed by Appaji Pant, Governor of Kalyan.[2] The Portuguese side was represented by Sinhor Martinho de Silva de Menozes captain general of the forts and lands of the North.[3] - Bajirao was finally prevailed upon to give up the above mentioned two conditions and on 10 February 1732, a treaty between the Marathas and the Portuguese was signed.[4] This invasion of Bassein in 1730 was largly the result of the efforts of Ganesh Naik of Anjur.[5]

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[1] Parvate, op.cit., p.128.

[2] Naik, Sastichi Bakhar (The Chronicle of Salcette), pp.30-31.

[3] Kakodkar, op.cit., p.179.

[4] Parvate, op.cit., p.128.

[5] Ibid.

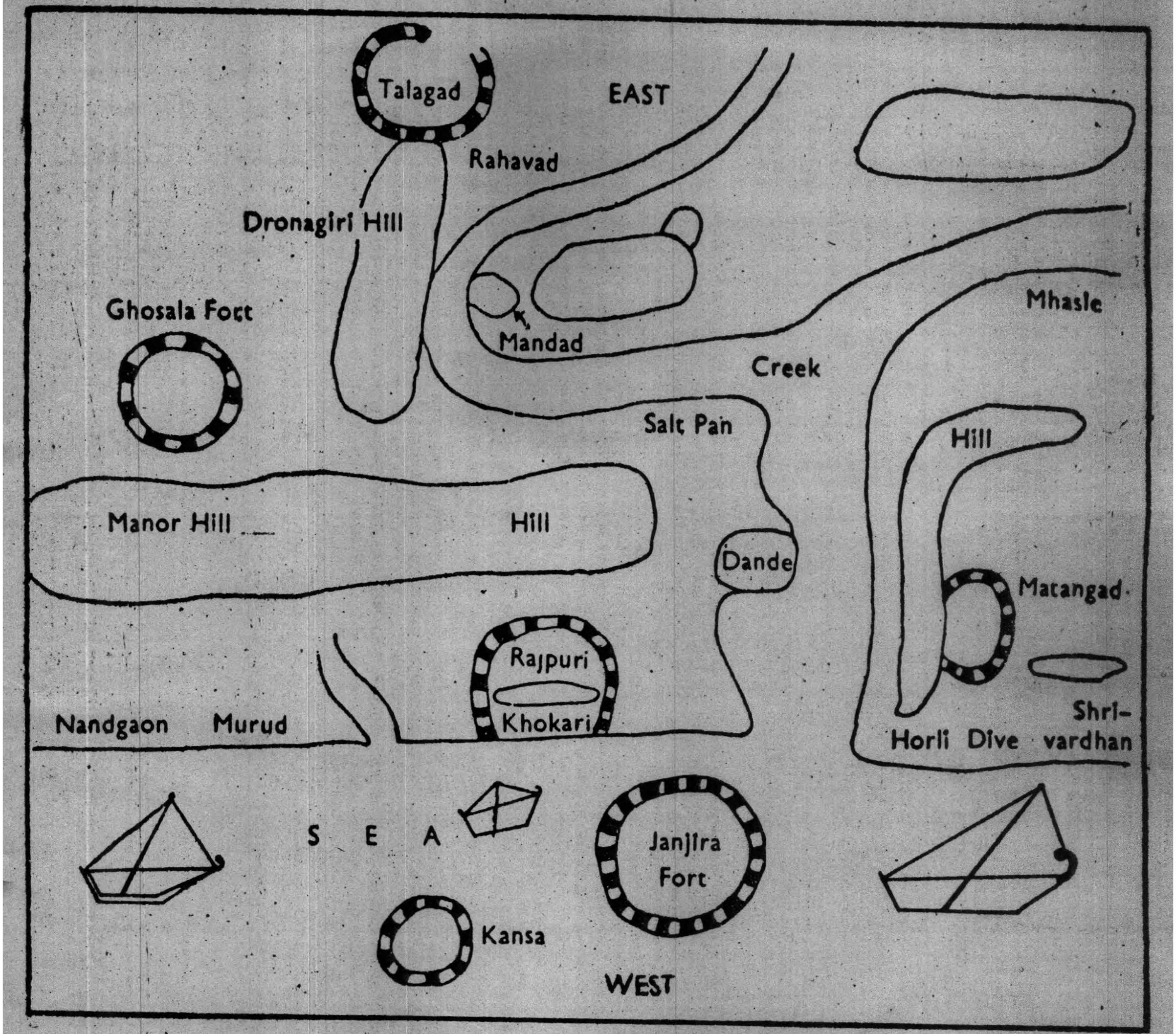
Talagad
EAST
Rahavad
Dronagiri Hill
Ghosala Fort
Mandad
Creek
Mhasle
Salt Pan
Hill
Manor Hill
Hill
Dande
Matangad
Rajpuri
Khokari
Nandgaon
Murud
Shri-
vardhan
Horli
Dive
S E A
Janjira Fort
Kansa
WEST

Fig. 4—Map of Janjira and the adjoining territory[2]

(By the courtesy of the Trustees of the Prince of Wales Museum, Bombay)

CHAPTER V

THE PESHWAS GAIN SUPREMACY I (1707-1756)

THE SIDIS' POWER CRIPPLED

It is well known that the coastal strip of Maharashtra or Konkan formed a part of Shivaji's swaraj. Two powers - the Sidis of Janjira and the Portugese of Goa - held out against him clinging to their small maritime possessions. But we have seen that during the interregnum of Shivaji's death in 1680 and Shahu's homecoming in 1707, the Marathas were fighting the Mughals for their very existence and these two powers had seized the outlying Maratha territory in Konkan and refused to surrender it after the withdrawal of the Mughals. The draft treaty which was sent with Balaji Vishwanath to Husain Ali Sayyid in 1713 contained as its first article, restoration of the forts like Raigad, Miraj, Junnar, Kalyan and Bhivandi with their surrounding districts. The Sidis had been put in possession of the important fortresses of Raigad, Mahad, Dabhol and Ratnagiri by Aurangzeb. However, the Sidi on his own, had occupied Revas, Thal and Anjanvel from which, they harrassed Maratha ships and sent raiding parties inside Maratha territory.[1]

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[1] S. and P. Deptt.Diary No.2, pp.34-36.

When Shahu came to Deccan, after his release by the Mughals, Tarabai waged a war against him. In that Kanhoji sided Tarabai and waged a war against Chhatrapati Shahu, and even imprisoned the Peshwa, Bahiropant Pingle. Immediately Shahu understood the importance of naval power of the Angre and to win him over to his side he deputed Balaji Vishwanath, the new Peshwa, to reconcile with the Angre. Balaji Vishwanath had passed the early days of his life under the domination of the Sidi. Balaji belonged to the Bhat family of Shrivardhan who were the hereditory Deshmukhs of Danda-Rajapur since the time of Malik Ambar.[1] When the region came under the influence of the Sidis the Bhat family being hereditory Deshmukhs of the region, had to owe allegiance to the Sidis.[2] Thus Balaji, having hailed from Konkan, was known to Kanhoji and had friendship with him. In the meeting that took place between Balaji Vishwanath and Kanhoji, the former appointed him as Sarkhel or admiral on behalf of Shahu. A draft agreement was drawn on 18th February 1714 by which the exchange of forts took place. Kanhoji received Rajmachi,

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[1] Malik Ambar had confirmed the Watan of Deshmukh of Danda-Rajapuri on the Bhat family. B.I.S.M. Annual Report, Vol. XI, (Shake 1837), pp.95-96.

[2] B.I.S.M. Half Yearly Report, Shake 1834, pp.70-71

Khanderi and recognition of possessing twenty-six strongholds in the Konkan, some of which were in the hands of the Sidis. It was also agreed that every year from Dasra till the month of Margashirsha (i.e. from October to December) the Peshwa should undertake campaign against all of Kanhoji's enemies and to regard them as his enemies.[1]

The consequences of the treaty are of great importance. It involved Shahu Chhatrapati and the Maratha state in the conflicts between Kanhoji and his enemies - the Sidis, the English and the Portuguese. The Sidi also the enemy of the Maratha State. In the days following the execution of Sambhaji the Sidis invaded the Maratha main land during the year 1708-10.[2] The people ran away as the Sidis invaded the basin of the Mutha.[3] The Sidis made vigorous efforts to destroy the Maratha power especially Kanhoji Angre but achieved nothing. The Sidis captured the fort of Padmadurga or Kansa at the mounth of Rajapuri creek and sent the golden key of the fort to the Mughal Emperor in 1710. The Emperor honoured him and sent him robes of honours.[4]

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1. Rajwade, op.cit., Vol.,4,p.35.
2. Ibid., Vol.16, p.40.
3. Itihas Sangraha: Itihasik tipane, Vol.2, p.24.
4. Sardesai, Marathi Riyasat, New Series, Vol.5, p.105.

When Kanhoji Angre was engaged Shahu, the Sidis, took their opportunity and captured the fort of Suvarndurga by assault.[1] Balaji Vishwanath lost no time in executing the clause agreed by him in the agreement concluded with Kanhoji.[2] Balaji Vishwanath in person led an expedition alongwith Kanhoji Angre and invaded the territories of Sidi Suralkhan[3] and forced him to agree to the terms of treaty entirely beneficial to the Marathas (30th January 1715). By the terms of the treaty, it was decided that the Sidis should allow the Kamavisdars of Shahu to realize half the revenue of the village of Goregaon, Gowal, Nizampur, Nagothana, Ashtami, Pali, Ashare and Antone, which were in the possession of the Sidis.[4] According to the agreement, Sidi Suralkhan also handed over to the Marathas the following eleven forts:- (1) Surgad (2) Pratapgad (3) Yashwantgad (4) Bankot (5) Kondana (6) Khupgad (7) Pattedurga (8) Kuturgad (9) Vijaydurga (10) Muktargad (11) Mandangad.[5]

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1. Avalaskar, op.cit., p.4, note 20.
2. Rajwade, op.cit., Vol.4, p.35.
3. Avalaskar, op.cit., p.5 note 24.
4. Rajwade, op.cit., Vol.2, p.26.
5. Bhosle, Janjira Sansthancha Itihas, p.65.

Thus the dispute between the Sidis and the Marathas was settled to the advantage of the Marathas. The Sidis deprived of their power and prestige were completely humbled down. They dared not raise their head against the Marathas till 1725. Hence we have the complaints of the Portuguese to the Mughal Emperor of the criminal indifference of the Sidis towards the Marathas.[1] During the period there was no major conflict. But they (Sidis) continued to harass the Hindus of the Konkan and often committed outrages on them.[2] In 1724 Sidi Yakutkhan attacked Kolaba with armed ships. But Kanhoji bought him off with plenty of money and made peace with him.[3] We now understand from the Portuguese sources that Kanhoji entered into a pact with Shahu to capture the fort of Raigad from the Sidi for which Chhatrapati Shahu sent 500 select cavalry to assit Angre. The Sidi got scent of this and made perfect preparations to defend the fort and the Marathas were compelled to abandon the project for sometime.[4]

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[1] Sen, Studies in Indian History, p.80.

[2] Parasnis, Brahmendra Swami Dhawadshikar, p.43.

[3] Parvate, (tr.) Portuguese-Mahratta Relations, pp.125-126.

[4] Ibid., p.126.
When Raigad was given in charge of the Sidi by the Emperor it was agreed by the later that the Sidi should be paid 3 lakhs annually from Surat for the maintenance of his garrison at Raigad and Tankha of Rs.2 lakhs was granted ...

Sidi's instigation

The Nizam saw that Bajirao was away in Karnatak. Therefore, he instigated the Sidi to ravage the Maratha territory below the fort of Palkhed in April 1725. Accordingly this was done by the Sidis instantly.[1] Now the Marathas were bound by honour and obligation to punish him stop his further depredation for, according to their treaty of 1719 with the Emperor the Marathas were pledged to keep peace in Konkan which was included in the Deccan.[2] The Sidi's fleet appeared before Kolaba early in 1725.

The English of Bombay also were ready to help the Sidi as it is understood from the President's report of 1724;[3] "that the Sidi Sat of Anjanvel or Dabhol has at Sundry times sent off to our vessels provision and refreshments while cruising off that port and been otherwise very courteous in his advices in relation to Angria, in order to keep his friendship he may

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contd.. by the Emperor every year for the support of the Sidis' fleet. (see Banaji, Bombay and the Sidis, L.59, p.226); Political Department Diary, 6A, pp.69-70 & Public Deptt. Diary, 6, pp.71-3. The Sidi was not prepared to lose Rs.5/- lakhs annually by surrendering the Raigad to the Marathas

[1] Vad, Shahu Roznishi, p.7.

[2] Rajwade, M.I.S., Vol.III, Instroduction, p.11.

[3] Edward, Rise of Bombay, pp.141-2.

be given a present of three yards of scarlet cloth, a pair of pistols and gilt sword". Though Kanhoji had successfully held his own against the Sidi, he was unable to wrest the Swarajya territory from him. So Kanhoji sought the help of Shahu Maharaj who in return advised him to wait for his help which would be sent to him after Dasra festival (October 1726)[1]. Shahu Maharaj could not send the promised help as the Maratha forces were engaged in the Karnatak expeditions. However, Kanhoji captured Palkhade fort in 1729; in the same year Kanhoji expired in July. The Marathas were continuing the war against Sidi. At this time an incident took place which flared up the war between the Marathas and the Sidi. Bramendra Swami Dhawadshikar had gone to Karnataka for collecting alms from his followers in the Karnataka in 1726. while he was going to the Karnataka the Sidi Sat of Anjanwel requestedhim to bring with him from Savanur-Nabab an elephant which was given by the Nabab to the Sidi as a gift. The Swami took upon himself the the responsibility of carrying the elephant safe to Anjanwel by obtaining permit for the passage of the elephant from the Angre, through whose territory the Swami had to travel. On arriving at Vishalgad, he entered in the territory of Kanhoji Angre from whom he didn't obtain a permit as the Angre was his devoted admirer. Therefore, with the sence of relief he sent the elephant ahead and himself followed leisurely.

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[1] Parasnis, Brahmendraswami Charitra, pp.43-55.

When the elephant reached on the border of the Angre's territory, the officer's of the Angre' discovered that the elephant belonged to the Sidi and had no permit from their chief. Therefore they seized it and sent it to Jaigad.

When thisnnews reached the Sidi he got enraged for detaining his elephant by the Angre and despatched some troops to Jaigad for its release but they were put to flight, by the Angre's troops. This added fuel to the fire and the Sidi suspecting the Swami's hand (complexity) in the affaire led an Army, attacked the temple of Parseram on the Shivaratri day when huge crowd of men and women had gathered to worship the God Shiva. He descrated and destroyed the temple and stripped it of all its wealth. The people and the Priests were subjected to torture. In the meantime the Swami got the elephant released from Kanhoji and sent it to the Sidi. But when he came to know of the outrage of Sidi he crused him. On seeing the ruin of Parshuram temple he got desguested and left the Konkan and came to the Desh. The chief Sidi, Yakut of Janjira, was also Swami's disciple and came to know of the outrages committed by him officers. He deeply regretted it and ordered Sidi Sat to restore all the wealth he had taken from the temple and promised to rebuilt it.[1] Kanhoji Angre also pleaded with the Swami to remain in the Konkan. Accordingl the Swami remained for another year, but got disgusted with Sidi Sat's continued arrogance and allowed him to go to the Desh.[2] The Angre requested Swami to persuade Bajirao to co-operate with him in the destruction of the Sidi. In 1728 the Swami finally left the Konkan and ascending the ghats went to live in Dhavadashi.[3] There, he was welcome by Shahu Maharaj and his nobles and remained there till the end of his life.

On arrival of the Swami atDhavadashi, Shahu Maharaj gave serious thought for an expedition against the Sidi. He deputed the Pratinidhi against the Sidi as Bajirao was enteangled in the campaign against the Nizam. The other reason for selecting

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1. Parasnis, Ibid., pp.19-22.
2. Rajwade, M.I.S., III, L.180.
3. Parasnis, op.cit., p.34.

Pratinidhi was that he had Jahagir in Konkan. Pilaji Jadhav was arked to asist him. It was decided that Pilaji Jadhav should march against the Portuguese and prevent them from assisting the Sidi, for the Sidi and the Portuguese were on friendly terms. The Pratinidhi went toKonkan but he went on lingering that his help was off no use to the Angre in defeating the Sidi. In the meantime Bajirao got victory over the Nizam in March 1728. It was reported to Bajirao that the Pratinidhi had achieved nothing in the Konkan. He wasted his time in Konkan without accomplishing anything. Owing to the death of Kanhoji in 1729 the Sidi grew very defiant and took advantage of family squabbles between Angre's sons to increase his power at their cost.[1] Early in 1730 the campaign was renewed and the Pratinidhi was asked to march towards Kolaba and Ratnagiri[2] and Pilaji was sent towards Kalvan against the Portuguese. Pratinidhi's attempt was futile.[3] The Pratinidhi requested Shahu Maharaj from his camp at Konkan to recall him back. Accordingly, the Pratinidhi was soon recalled and given the command of the troops against Sambhaji of Kolhapur in November 1730. In

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1. Parasnis, op.cit., pp.44,45.
2. Rajawade, Vol.II, p.59.
3. Ibid., Vol.III, L.No.249.

1730/31, the affairs of the Konkan fell into disorder on account of the quarrels between Sekhoji and Sambhaji, the two sons of Kanhoji Angre. In 1731 the trouble was formented by Bajirao and Brahmendra Swami to weaken the Angre's power. In 1731, after quarreling with his brother Sekhoji, Sambhaji went to Suvarnadurga south of Kolaba and made it the head quarters of the his fleet. Shahu Maharaj failed to bring reconciliation among them; Sekhoji joined Bajirao against the Pratinidhi in 1732.[1] Due to this quarrel the operation of the Marathas in the Konkan was seriously hampered and that was to the advantage the Sidi.[2] So far, the affairs of the Konkan remained unsettled. Bajirao became free by the end of 1732 after the final settlement with Nizam in August 1731 and victory over Dabhade. So he resolved to take up the affairs of the Konkan in hand. It was his intention to be Supreme in the Konkan by liquidating the Sidi, the Portuguese and the Angre.

Once again in 1732 Shripatrao Pratinidhi was sent in Konkan by Shahu Maharaj. Sekhoji Angre asked his assistant Bankaji Naik to help the Pratinidhi. In March of that year the

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1. Rajwade, op.cit., Introduction, p.25.
2. Ibid., p.22.

Pratinidhi lead sieze to Anjanwel and about the same time Bankoji Naik engaged Sidi Sat in a tough fight in Chiplun and defeat him. From Chiplun he passed on to Govalkot which he wanted to invest but he met the Pratinidhi who advised him to desist from the attack as the Sidi had promised him to pay his respect to Shahu Maharaj at Satara and stop the war provided the Angre was driven out at the Konkan.[1] Bankaji Naik went back to his chief Sekhoji Angre to speak the mind of the Pratinidhi.[2]

The Pratinidhi got completely disillusioned when the Sidi started constantly harrassing him by changing friendship into enmity against the Pratinidhi.[3] when Shahu Maharaj heard about the Pratinidhi's performence he got sadly disappointed and appointedBajirao I to take the Supreme command of Konkan expedition and wrote a stinging letter to him to come back to Satara.[4]

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1. Ibld., L.331.
2. Ibld., L.331.
3. Ibld., Vol.III, Introduction p.24.
4. Ibld.

Bajirao undertakes Konkan Campaign

While deciding to undertake the Konkan campaign Bajirao came to know the death of Sidi Rasul Yakut, the Chief of the Sidi, in February 1733. After his death a serious trouble began with regardto the succession among his sons.

Sidi Yakut had a number of sons of whom Abdulha was the eldest and rightful heir to the throne, but his claim was disputed by his brothers and son. His seven governors also fished in trouble water. One of them Shaikh Yakub Khan a Hindu convert was the most capable and recalcitrant. He had proved rebellious even during Yakut Khan's life time.[1] These civil strifes were tomented by Prabhu Sardar Yashvantrao Potnis who had been sent to the Konkan by Shahu Maharaj for that purpose. At the Instigation of Potnis, Sidi Rahaman, the son and rival of Sidi Abdulha fled from Janjira and came to take refuge with Patnis.

Sidi Rahman found that his uncles had shut the gates of the fort against him and had seized his father and murdered him.[2] Sidi Rahman was promised the command of the

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1. Parasnis, Brahmendra Swami Charitra, pp.49, 50.
2. Rajwade, M.I.S., Vol.IV; Peshvyanchi Bakhar, p.39.

fleet and the large portion of the possession of the Sidi for his siding with the Marathas.[1] When the ground was thus prepared Shahu Maharaj gave command of the expedition against the Sidi to Bajirao. The Pratinidhi was also asked to start in advance and Bajirao and Fattesingh Bhosale should fallow him with the main body of the army. But Bajirao and Fattesingh arrived in Konkan in April 1733 and opened the campaign with great vigour.[2]

The Peshwa arrived in Konkan by the shortest route through the mountainous Bhor country by way of Pali, Kolar near Surgad, Sikare and arrived before Rajpuri on the last day of Baishakh (2nd May 1733) completing his march within a week.[3] A local Sardar showed the Peshwa, the way to Khokhari Rajkot, Balaraj and Rajpuri which were captured by the Marathas.[4] The Sidi's fleet lying in the port was also captured by the Marathas.[5] Shekhji, the powerful Sidi sardar was won over by the Marathas. He sat with the Peshwa at Balaroza at Rajpuri to conduct the operations of the siege.[6]

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1. Rajwade, Vol.IV, Peshvyanchi Bakhar, p.40;
   Rajwade, Vol.II, p.65.
2. Sinha, Rise of the Peshwas, p.178.
3. Peshwe Rozkird, Rumal 15;
   Khobrekar, Maratyanchya Swaranche Mukham, p.156.
4. Sane, Karyetihas Sangraha Patre Yadi, No.22.
5. S.& P.D., Vol.3, L.2;
   Purandare Daftar, II, 104.
6. Parasnis, Brahmendra Swami Charitra, p.48.

Peshwa Bajirao was aware that to achieve success against Janjira, he should have support of the navy. He, therefore, asked Sekhoji Angre, the son of Kanhoji Angre, who was made Sarkhel, after laters' death, to meet him at Pali on his way to Rajpuri.[1] Thereupon, Sekhoji explained to the Peshwa his difficulties in sending his contingent of men and joining personally in the compaign.[2] The Sidi's fleet was handedover to him. Sekhoji was with the Peshwa at Rajapuri fifteen days. He left the Peshwa and arrived at Kolaba on 27.5.1733 via Murud, Mandgaon & Chaul.[3]

As stated earlier, after the execution of Sambhaji, the Sidis had extended their power. Besides Janjira and Underi, the Sidis had in their possession Anjanvel, Gowalkot, (Angre's stronghold). Sidi Sambal and Sidi Amber managed the affairs of Janjira.[4] Sidi Sat had Gowalkot and Anjanvel in his possession. Sidi Ballal was the commandant of Underi.

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1. Purandare Daftar I, L.104, S.& P.D.Vol.33, LS 11, 15.
2. Ibid.,
3. S.& P.D., 27, L.14.
4. Sane, Kavye Itihas Sangrah Patre Yadi, No.22.

Bajirao had a clear picture in his mind about the stupendous nature of the Janjira campaign. This is clearly brought out by Bajirao in his letter dated 26 May 1733 to Abaji Pant Purandare as follows:

"In spite of a number of attempts the Sidi has remained unbeaten. To uproot him, tremenous efforts are necessary. At least fifteen thousand soldiers, half of whom should be match-lockmen, are necessary to besiege him. Formerly he had only one fort, now he is more powerful because of the acquisition of Anjanvel and Underi. I suggest that the Pratinidhi and the Sarkhel should capture Anjanvel and Underi respectively. I expect the siege to last for a coupleof years.[1]

In the operation against the Sidis, the whole Angre family, viz. Sekhoji's brother Sambhaji, Manaji together with Laxmibai and Mathurabai (the two widows of Kanhoji), threw themselves shole heartdlyinto the war asccan be seen that Laxmibai Angre sent to Bajirao, important details of the Pritinidhi's dealings with the Sidi, his disagreement with Bakaji Naik and other matters of the campaign. In

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1. Purandare, Vol.I, L.102.

this letter, she took an important resume of the whole affairs.[1] She had even offered to send supplies to Bajirao according to his desires.[2]

Pratinidhi in Konkan

It is already said earlier that Shahu Chhatrapati selected the Pratinidhi for Konkan campaign as he had Jagir in Konkan. He was instructed by the Chhatrapati to move to Konkan in April 1733, and Bajirao and Fattesing Bhosle were to follow him. But the Pratinidhi entered Konkan on 20th May 1733 after Bajirao I. Shahu Maharaj was anxious to bring Raigad in the Swarajya. Raigad fort was very strong and it could not be conquered with the help of the forces. Bajirao tried to play intrigues on the authorities of Raigad.[3] On the 26thMay 1733 had written to Ambaji Pant Purandare, "It is likely that Raigad would come in our possession through negotiations if not, a force of 1500 to 2000 troops would be required to capture."[4]

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1. S.P.D.Vol. 3, L.21 dt.19.7.1733.
2. Ibid., L.31.
3. Kavya Itihas Sangrah Patre Yadi, p.45.
4. Purandare Daftar, I, L.103.

To conquer Raigad, a force of 700 to 800 troops of Bajirao had encamped at Pachad and remained there by establishing Chawk for exterting pressure and occupy the fort. Fattesing Bhosle' soldiers also came to Pachad to help Bajirao. Fattesing declared, that with the permission of Shahu Maharaj he had come to Pachad to capture Raigad.[1] The Pratinidhi did not speak his mind about Raigad. The Pratinidhi arrived at Pachad in the beginning of June 1733. He was given the leadership and was assigned the task of achieving Raigad by any means.[2] The Peshwa had sent a force of 800 to Raigad.[3] The place was too strong for the small Maratha force operating against it. The Killedar agreed to surrender the fort to the Marathas on a promise of a good sum. Shahu Maharaj despatched 200 Maratha troops with the assured sum. Hearing about the deal and the receipt of money, the Sidis plundered the treasure that had been carried to Raigad for the payment to the Killedar.[4] The Pratinidhi, who was in league with Yashwantrao Potnis, had Shahu Maharaj's explicit orders to capture Raigad.[5] By making fresh overtures to the Killedar, the Pratinidhi took possession of Raigad on 8.6.1733.[6] This was highly admired and their honour wasthus vindicated.

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[1] S.P.D.Vol., 3, L.4; Vol.33, L.27.
[2] Ibid., Vol.30, L.95.
[3] Ibid., Vol. 33, L.27.
[4] Ibid., Vol. 30, L.95.
[5] Rajwade, M.I.S., Vol. II, p.68.
[6] S.P.D.Vol.3, L.7;

The capture of Raigad was hailed at Satara as a great exploit Warm praises from Shahu Chhatrapati and the entire Court, were showered on the pratinidhi. From Raigad, the Pratinidhi had been directed by Chhatrapati Shahu to march against Anjanvel, the Sidi's stronghold in the south. Any attempt against Anjanwel without first reducing Gowalkot left the rear of the investing force open to attack. Sidi Sat was the commandant of Gowalkot. Gowalkot had assumed special importance on account of its vicinity to the holy shrine of Parshuram, a place sanctified by its association with Brahmendra Swami. It was the duty of the Maratha force to free Parshuram from the persecution and humiliation the deity had suffered from the Sidi earlier. The Pratinidhi marched from Chiplun (of which Gowalkot was the port) exhorting Angres' officers to co-operate with him.[1] The Angre's officers, Diwan Raghunath Hari and Bakaji Naik Mahadik, were helping the siege of Gowalkot with a force of 1500 troops.[2] A severe fighting started which was witnessed by the Pratinidhi who hoped to win the battle and put one more feather on his cap with the cooperation of Angre's force. But the intrigues set on foot by the Peshwa vitiated the

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contd...6. Brahmendra Swami Charitra, p.50.
Shivcharitra Sahitya Khand, 6, L.125.

[1] Dighe, Peshwa Bajirao I, p.6.

[2] S.P.D., Vol. 33, L.38.

whole situation. Regarding action at Anjanwel, Bajirao suggested to Sekhoji that it should be taken after rainy season when the sailing of the fleet into the water and the movements of the Military force by land would be done smoothly. Shekhoji agreed to Bajirao's plan of preventing the Pratinidhi from going against Anjanwel.[1] The Peshwa proposed to Sekhoji three alternatives for for prosecuting the Konkan campaign. Sekhoji thereupon requested Bajirao to take the command of the force. In a letter dt.21.6.1733 Sekhoji stated as follows:-

"Unless the sole charge of the campaign is given to one single commander with full control, you will be unsucessful. You must take the full responsibility on yourself with me at your side to serve and assist you, what is impossible of attainment? It is immaterial whether the war lasts for one year or two or whether it costs one lakh or ten and whether the British, the Portuguese and the Mughal officials at Surat render naval succour to the Sidi. With all these dangers we can confidently win the war, provided you take the lead personally".[2] The Pratinidhi's advance in the Anjanwel quarter was looked on with disfavour by

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1. S.P.D. Vol.33, L.38.
2. Ibid., L.42.

by Sekhoji Angre. His views were encouraged by the Peshwa. So Sekhoji approved the proposal of the Peshwa in not allowing the Pratinidhi to have any share in the capture of Anjanwel. He took the decision of not sending any assistance to the Pratinidhi. Sekhoji wrote to the Peshwa saying that he did not like the idea of the Pratinidhi taking the credit of capturing Anjanwel as was done by him in the case with Raigad.[1] Now the Peshwa with the consent of Sekhoji Angre decided to withhold his detachment and advised his general Mahadik to refuse any kind of assistance to the Pratinidhi.[2] Thereupon, the Peshwa also sent secret agents to the Sidi and encouraged him to fight against the Pratinidhi.[3] Mahadik made it clear to the Pratinidhi that he alone would prosecute the siege at Gowalkot and that the Pratinidhi should proceed against Anjanwel.[4]

The Pratinidhi did not agree to Mahadik's plan and insisted in joint action against both places and occupying them in the name of Shahu Maharaj. Mahadik, therefore, left the scene according to the instructions of his master Sekhoji and marched

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1. *Ibid*., L.48.
2. *Ibid*., L.62.
3. *Ibid*.,Vol.3, L.21.
4. *Ibid*.

back with his troops to Survarnadurg.[1] Now Sidi Sat of Gowalkot came to know the differences among the Maratha generals and decided to take advantage of them. The Pratinidhi when arrived at Chiplun, met Sidi Sat who showed his anxiousness to take Shanu Maharaja's service by surrendering the two places (Gowalkot and Rajpuri) by negotiations. As the Pratinidhi had succeeded at Raigad, he thought he would do the same with Gowalkot. The Sidi's preliminary condition for starting negotiations was that the Angre' force should be withdrawn from its threatening position. The Pratinidhi at once ordered Mahadik, Angre's commander, to give up the siege. When done, Sidi Sat played a successful game and kept the Pratinidhi busy under prolonged negotiations and agreed to deliver the place after four months, thereby making it clear that he was marking his time.[2] In the meantime the monsoon started with fury making all war-like operations impossible. The Pratinidhi soon realized that he had been out witted by the Sidi and started preparations for lying siege to the fort.

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1. Ibid., Ls. 10, 15, 19, 21;
   Rajwade, M.I.S., Vol. III, L.330.

2. S.P.D., Vol.3, Ls. 21, 25.

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Sidi seeks the help of European Nations:

The four months of the inoperative season proved a welcome resite for the Sidi. He made urgent appeals to the English, to the Portuguese, and his colleagues at Surat and even to Nizam ul Mulk and to the Emperor of Delhi for help. Toward off Maratha attack and to check the growth of Maratna power at Andheri, which was situated in the neighbourhood of Bombay harbour, the Bombay government decided to capture Andheri fortress by hoisting their flag on it. Accordingly they did. The Sidi wanted to take the possession of it. The English declared themselves ready to restore the fortress of Andheri to the city provided the latter was willing to repay all the expenses incurred by the British Company. The Englisn took measures to fortify the forttress for defending against the possible attack of the Marathas.

Bajirao also predicted that the Sidis, would get help from the English and the Mughals.[1] So when besieging Rajpuri, Bajirao at first wrote in the name of the Raja of Satara to the President and the Council at Bombay that he would not permit the English fleet to interfere with his operations.[2]

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1. Purandare Daftar, I, L.106.
2. Banaji, Bombay and the Sidis, p.78.

While the Sidi demanded aid from the English against Raja Shahu, Sekhoji Angre, on behalf of Raja Shahu, sent envoys to the President complaining about the misbehaviour of the Sidi of Danda Rajpuri. The envoys complained that by force of arms the Sidis had possessed themselves of several ports in Raja Shahu's possession and in order to regain them an army had been sent under the command of Fattesingh Bhosle.[1] The Maratha envoys convinced the English that Raja Shahu's intention was to make himself master of all the seaports and fortresses which were formerly in the possession of the Sidi.[2] This shows the clear sign of the growing importance of the English at Bombay. The two letters written in the first week of June 1733, speak of the English at Bombay helping the Sidi and of naval coming from Surat.[3] Sekhoji Angre informed Bajirao I on 21.8.1733 how the British navy of Bombay was going out to help the Sidi.[4]

In the meantime the English were asked by Shah-Shamuddaula, an officer of the Mughal Emperor, that alongwith the Portuguese they should help the Sidis against the Marathas. The English replied that they would be glad to do so and hoped that the expense incurred by the English.[1]

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[1] S.P.D., Vol.3, L.65.
[2] Ibid., p.78.
[3] Ibid., Ls.5, 5a.
[4] Ibid., L.69.

The Maratha army had reduced the power of the Sidis to a great extent. The Sidis were paid an annual Jagir of three lakhs of Rupees by the Mughal Government for the protection of their trade at Surat. As the Sidis were not powerful enough to protect the Mughal trade, the English thought of acquiring the Jagir by making overtures to Tegbeg Khan and undertaking the responsibility of protecting the Mughal trade.[2] The English at Bombay rejoiced when the Governor of Surat proposed that he would secure the necessary firman from the Mughal Emperor in the name of the English.[3] Sekhoji Angre was quite alert and he informed the Mughals that instead of giving Jagir to the Sidis who were already broken, it should be given to him so that "he would take care to protect the trade of this post against all enemies and then concludes that he expects an immediate answer, and that he may concert hismeasures accordingly".[4]

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[1] Bombay Archives, Public Deptt.Diary 5B, pp.230-34.

[2] Public Department Diary 6-A, 7th June, 1733, pp.1-3, 4.

[3] Ibid.

[4] Public Deptt.Diary No.6, August 1733, pp.71-73.

It is already said that after the capture of Raigad, the Pratinidhi moved towards Gowalkot and Anjanwel. A small force of Sekhoji Angre under Diwan Raghunath Hari and Bakaji Naik Mahadik was operating against the Sidi. Before the end of May 1733 they had wrested Mandangad from the hands of the Sidis.[1] On 6th July, 1733, Bakaji Naik Mahadik assaulted and captured Vijaygad.[2] On his way to Anjanwel from Suvarndurg, Bakaji Naik Mahadik learnt that Sidi Sat again intended to desecrate the shrine of Parshuram. Babaji Naik Mahadik advanced to Gowalkot. Sidi Sat with 12 to 15 hundred soldiers attacked the Marathas. Out numbered by the Sidis, the Marathas were on the verge of defeat. However, Bakaji Naik rallied his forces and repelled the enemy Vigorously. The Sidi forces ran away.[3]

On 30th July the Pratinidhi received reinforcements from Vishalgad.[4] On the very day Gangadhar Pant, brother of Pratinidhi, attacked Sidi's out post. The Sidi took refuge in the fort. So Pratinidhi ordered an assault on the fort. The result was that the Sidi repulsed the attack with heavy losses. Thus the Pratinidhi was defeated by the Sidi.[5] The Pratinidhi complained

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1. Purandare, op.cit., Vol.1, L.104.
2. Rajwade Vol.13, L.305; S.P.D., Vol.33, L.66.
3. S.P.D., Vol.33, L.57; S.P.D., Vol.3, Ls.15,16.
4. S.P.D., Vol.3, L.38.
5. Ibid., Ls.38, 45.

against the attitude of the Peshwa and the Angre to Shahu.[1] Thereafter, the Sidi attacked the outpost occupied by the Pratinidhi. The Marathas got defeated and abandoned the out post.[2]

The Pratinidhi contacted Sambhaji Angre for the help of his fleet. But as Sambhaji was already instructed by Sekhoji not to help the Pratinidhi, under the instructions from the Peshwa, Sambhaji refused to help him.[3]

The Pratinidhi achieved success against the Sidis on 23rd September 1733. In an encounter with the forces of Chawan, the Sidis were defeated and were pursued by the Marathas upto the tranches.[4]

The Pratinidhi planned a decisive attack on 5th October, 1733. When the Marathas attacked Gowalkot, they had to face heavy fire from the fort. The forces under Pratinidhi fled at the sight of the Sidi's ships. The Sidi force landed and the Maratha force was attacked in front as well as in the rear and thus they were defeated with heavy losses.[5] A force which was

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1. Ibid., Ls.39, 98.
2. S.P.D., Ls.47, 54.
3. Ibid., Vol.3, L.45.
4. Ibid., Vol.33, L.105.
5. Ibid., L.115.

sent to surprise Anjanwel, returned without achieving anything.[1] On 25th October, 1733, the Pratinidhi raised the siege of Gowalkot and returned to Satara.[2] This shows that no organised efforts were ma de by Bajirao to uproot the Sidi from Konkan.

On 13th July, the English also decided to send help to Sidis consisting of one Lieutenant, two Engineers, four sergents, 4 Corporals, forty European Musquetuers and sixty topasses, six nine pounders, six pounders, sixty barrels of powder, one hundred spare musquettes and sundry other Stores.[3] This was against the promise they gave to the Angres envoy Babaji Balal, who was deputed to Bombay[4] at that time. Bajirao got his information of the English help to the Sidi. Therefore, in August, he wrote to Shahu Maharaj thus : "The Sidi is not an ordinary enemy; you know how often in the past, heroic attempts to humble him have failed. A tremendous effort is necessary if he is to be finally overcome. Without a complete naval blockade combined with carefully arranged operations by land, it is not possible to overcome him.This means enormous expenditure of

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1. Ibid.
2. Ibid, Vol. 3, L. 102.
3. Public Dept. Diary, Vol. V, pp. 148-149.
   Banaji, op.cit., p. 257.
4. S.P.D., Vol. 33, Ls. 44, 78.

expenditure of money, which is not available. We need at least fifteen thousand expert footmen for an effort of this kind, working through a period of at least two years. Janjira is receiving support from Anjanvel and Underi; these places must be secured before an attack on his principal strong hold could succeed. We have already exhausted all our money and resources so that unless you send us ample funds at once, we cannot make any movement. We are putting forth our utmost effort, but that is not enough. The Sidis are getting help from Surat and Bombay also. The Pratinidhi has not come to Rajpuri. I await further orders".[1] from Bajirao's letter we note that he was aware of the strong, almost invincible position of the Sidi.[2]

Had Shahu left this matter to Bajirao by giving supreme command and not guiding and making and remaking appointments of the Military Commanders from a distant place like Satara, the result would have been different. There was no uniformity of policy, neither organised strategy. Perhaps because of this, Bajirao was in favour of a settlement with the Sidis.

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1. Purandare, Vol.II, L.102;
   Sardesai, NHM, Vol.II, p.

2. Purandare, Vol.I, L.102.

In June 1733 Bajirao came to know that the Nizam had sent robes of honour to Sidi Sat[1] and a help from the English at Bombay[2] on request from the Sidi. Bajirao also came to know from Sekhoji Angre the details of the Portuguese succour to the Sidis.[3] So Bajirao addressed a detailed letter to Shahu Maharaj informing him of the combination of the enemies to defeat the Marathas and suggesting a peace treaty with the Sidi through the mediation of the Nizam.[4]

A short time after this letter written, Sekhoji Angre died at Alibag on 28th August 1733.[5] This had effected adversly the Peshwas' plan of campaign. On the death of Sekhoji, Sambhaji his brother, left Vijaydurg and came to Kolaba and took up the command of the fleet. His relations with the Peshwa were not friendly. Between Sekhoji and Sambhaji there was a long standing fend.[6] As Bajirao had supported Sekhoji, Sambhaji started giving

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1. S.P.D., Vol.3, L.6.
2. S.P.D., Vol.33, L.75.
3. S.P.D., Vol.3, L.53.
4. S.P.D., Vol.33, L.79. Bajirao suggested that the Sidis should hand over Anjanvel and Underi to the Marathas and in return the Marathas should allow Sidis to retain Janjira and Padmadurga.
5. S.P.D., Vol.33, L.29.
6. Ibid.,; S.P.D., 3, L.68.

scant respect to the Peshwa's orders. When Sambhaji took command of the Kolaba fleet, the Peshwa asked him to meet him at Rajpuri for personal discussion. Sambhaji declined to meet the Peshwa.[1]

Shahu Maharaj learnt of the Nizam's intriques in favour of the Sidi. Therefore, he asked Chimaji Appa to stay at Poona to keep an eye on the Nizam movements. Intelligence received from Surat that Sidi Masud had decided to join the Sidi of Janjira. Shahu ordered Umabai Dabhade and Damaji Gaikwad of Gujarat to check his progress but they did not make any movement due to their hostilities with Bajirao. To add to this, in September 1733, the British despatched another squadron for the help of the Sidi. The consequence was that the command of the Sea passed into the hands of the Sidi and the English who now entered into an alliance, against the Marathas.[2] Thereafter, the English fleet took a menacing position in the Rajpuri creek.[3] The Peshwa now realised the hopelessness of the situation. He wrote to Shahu at Satara how the Marathas failed to win the war and suggested that Shahu should make approaches to the Sidi for peace.[4] Shahu agreed to

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1. S.P.D., 20, Ls.99, 100.
2. Bombay Archives, Surat Factory Diary, Vol.618, pp.5-12.
3. Dighe, Bajirao,I, p.67.
4. S.P.D., Vol.3, L.102.

Bajirao's proposal and asked the Peshwa to learn from the English, the Sidi's terms and deputed his envoy Anandrao Sumant to the Sidi for direct negotiations. The envoy left Satara for Rajpuri on his mission of peace on November 4th.[1] In December 1733, a treaty was concluded near Alibag, according to which Bajirao recognised Abdul Rahman as the Chief of Janjira. According to the treaty Bajirao retained Raigad and Mahad and five and half Mahals of the Sidi; and restored the rest to him.[2] He also agreed not to claim beyond what was in actual possession of the Marathas.[3] The Peshwa returned to Satara on 11 Decemrer 1733.[4]

For a naval battle on the sea Sekhoji Angre was the right hand man of the Peshwa Bajirao I as he was not accostomed to naval warfare. In this campaign of 1733, Sekhoji could not supplement the military power of Bajirao with the naval help. But the fault was not his. The campaign started hardly a month before the rainy season. The western sea is not navigable for the gallvats during the early monsoons. Hence Sekhoji was unable to help the Peshwa.

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1. Ibid., L.103.
2. Rajwade, M.I.S., Vol.III, Introduction, p.30.
3. S.P.D.,Vol.33, L.131.
4. S.P.D., Vol.20, p.328.

While the negotiations were going on Sidi Sat attempted to land men and attack Bankot, but it was frustrated.[1] However, the Sidi of Underi captured Thal on 12 November 1733.[2] In one of the skimaishes Sidi Yarkhan was killed by Manaji Angre.[3]

Chimaji Appa's Encounter with Sidi Sat

The agreement was concluded by Chimaji Appa who was on the scene since October 1733. Although the agreement was concluded, it seems from the subsequent events that the Sidis never meant to observe it. As already said, the English also concluded a treaty with the Sidis on 6th December, 1733, a week after the Maratha nominee Abdul Rahman Sat on the Mansad of Janjira. This treaty was mainly against the Angre. After Bajirao's return to capital the Sidis attacked Bankot and captured it.[4] The force of the Angres who were guarding the outpost escaped to Suvarnadurg. The Sidis moved further and captured Mahad.[5]

The news of the attacks of the Sidis on the Maratha outposts alarmed Chatrapati Shahu.[6] He ordered his Peshwa to despatch forces

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1. S.P.D., Vol.33, L.121.
2. Ibid., L.122.
3. Ibid., L.121.
4. Banaji, Bombay and the Sidis, p. 75.
5. Dighe, Peshwa Bajirao I, pp. 69-70.
6. S.P.D., Vol.33, L.149.

to Konkan at once to help the garrison of Raigad. He issued orders to Chimaji Appa asking him to encamp nearthe base of Raigad.[1] The Maratha forces halted at Poladpur on 5th January 1734. Baji Bhivrao Reterekar, Maratha commandant, reached Chhatri Nizampur with his forces on 9th January 1734.

Sidi Amber Afwani fought Valiaytly with the Maratha forces on 10 January 1734. The Marathas divided their forces into three units, one under Baji Bhivrao, the second was the Huzarat and the third under Udaji Pawar. At about day break, the battle ensued.[2] The Marathas captured Wadi and Pachad on the same day. Most of the Sidi's men were killed on the battle field. Udaji Pawar rushed with his forces in the battle against the Sidis and severed Sidi Amber Afwani's head.[3] Thereafter, the head was carried away by the Marathas. The palanquiu of the Sidi Amber Afwani fell in the Maratha hands. Krishnaji Khatavkar[4] and Javji Lad,[5] the sarnobat of Raigad were killed. The Sidis fled to Mahad.

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1. *S.P.D.*, Vol.3, L.136.
2. *S.P.D.*, Vol.33, L.150.
3. *Ibid.*, L.152.
4. Parasnis, *Brahmendra Swami Charitra*, L 278.
5. *S.P.D.*, Vol.33, L.168.

In a detailed letter to the Nizam, Chhatrapati Shahu informed him the Sidi's defeat at Raigad. The Sidi's forces took possession of Mahad and Pachad and thereafter blockaded Raigad. On hearing this news Udaji Pawar, to whom this campaign was assigned marched against the Sidis. In the battle Sidi Amber Afwani was killed and becheaded. Later Udaji Pawar captured Pachad.[1]

After the defeat of Sidi's forces at Raigad the Maratha planned an attack on Mahad[2] which was held by Sidi Sat. The Maratha forces marched againstAnjanvel and Gowalkot.[3] Simulteneously, Sambhaji Angre was also asked by Shahu Chhatrapati to help in the siege of Anjanwel and Govalkot.[4] As the Sidi returned to Bankot, the Marathas took possession of Mahad on 24th February 1734.[5]

The Marathas pursued the Sidis, assaulted and captured Bankot on 8th March 1734.[6] Baji Bhivrao took a prominent part in the action which was described by Chhatrapati Shahu in a letter to the Nizam-u-Mulk as follows:

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[1] Pagadi, "Shahu Ani Janjirekar Sidi"
Letter No.5, published in Marathi, from original Persian in Ushakal, Diwali Number, 1963.

[2] S.P.D., Vol.33, L.155.

[3] Ibid., Ls.184-188.

[4] Ibid., Ls.163.

[5] Purandare Daftar Vol.I, L.100.

[6] S.P.D., Vol.33, L.256.

"As soon as the army of Udaji Pawar arrived after him (Sidi) he exerted himself for five days and storming the fort from all sides, the sepoys carried it. The inhabitants, fearful of their lives fled on board the gallivats, ghurabs, which were without anchors and apparatus; many of which sank from extreme weight any and many people were killed and of them there did not remain one sign. Oodajee Pawar having taken a large army is pursuing Seedee Sad by land wherever that ill-fortuned may go, there he will follow".[1]

As soon as Baji Bhivrao took charge of the Bankot fort, the killedar Havji Sedgar ran away. So Baji Bhivrao requested Peshwa to appoint another Killedar.[2] At once he undertook repairs andcconstruction work of fort Bankot.[3] In this expedition, the Peshwa's forces were under Baji Bhivrao and Mankar, and the Huzur Troops were under the command of four captains, Hari Moreshwar

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1. Pawar, "Shahu's letter to Nizam-ul-Mulk Asaf Jah relating to Sidi Sat (A.D.1735).
   Deccan History Congress, 1945, pp.332-33.
2. S.P.D., Vol.33, L.173.
3. Ibid., L.176.

Rajadnya, Shaikh Mira, Lingoji Hawaldar and Deorao Meghashyam the Darga of the artillery. They were asked to aid the Pratinidhi and Sambhaji Angre in the task.[1] The king had retained direction of this expedition in his hand by sitting at Satara and ordering the Pratinidhi and Sambhaji Angre to take charge of the expedition in the absence of Bajirao who had returned to Satara. The Maratha forces sent under the different captains, as mentioned above, did not have a master to command, Bajirao's forces under the command of Baji Bhivrao were getting orders from the Peshwa and his brother Chimaji Appa,[2] whereas the other Maratha forces of Huzurat were receiving orders from the king and the Pratinidhi.

Sidi Sat began using the old tactics that had worn out the Pratinidhi's strength and forced him to abandon the siege. As the Pratinidhi hadlaid siege to Gowalkot, Baji Bhivrao expressed his intention of investing Anjanwel.[3] But he received orders from the king to help in the siege of Gowalkot.[4] He, therefore, expressed his unwillingness to proceed to Gowalkot owing to sickness raging in his camp, as reported by him to the Peshwa.[5] Here Baji Bhivrao who was under Peshwa's command was receiving orders from the King to proceed to Gowalkot but he was trying to put it off on some pretex or the other.[1] After explaining his abovementioned role, Baji Bhivrao requested advice from Bajirao as to what he should do[2] and what answers he should give to the king's despatches asking him to proceed to Gowalkot.[3]

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[1] Parasnis, Brahmendra Swami, pp.53-54.
[2] S.P.D., Vol.33, Ls.177-181.
[3] S.P.D., Vol.33, L.177.
[4] Ibid., L.178.
[5] Ibid., L.179.

So the things at Gowalkot and at Anjanwel started drifting. They could not prosper according to the plan. So the king deputed Jiwaji Khanderao Chitnis in Konkan. He arrived before Anjanwel on 1st April 1734 and was joined by a strocg force of Sambhaji Angre.[4] From here Chitnis communicated to the Peshwa the plans of Sambhaji Angre about a naval attack on Anjanwel.[5] In the meantime, Sonji Bhapkar and the Angre's men who had taken position in Matha creek were attacked by the Sidi Sat in which the Marathas sustained several casulties.[6] However, the progress of the siege of Anjanwel by the joint forces of the Angre and the king continued[7]

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1. Ibid., L.180.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid. L.181.
4. Ibid., Vol.33, Ls.182, 184*
5. Ibid., L.182.
6. Ibid., L.183.
7. Ibid., L.184.

will 10th April, 1734, while the siege was continued Sambhaji Angre received robes of Sarkhelship and a present of elephant sent by king Shahu at Jaygad.[1] Thereupon, they renewed the attack on Anjanwel. Jivaji Khanderao Chitnis led the attack on landside and Sambhaji Angre from the sea.[2] But the attack could not be renewed on the next day as Sambhaji had to retire to Vijaydurg owing to a heavy gale on the sea.[3] Thus the possibility of developing a simultenous attack from land and water was lost.

The ramaining force of the Angre opened a cannode against two important bastions ofthe fort. Sidi Sat, secure within the walls, replied to the Maratha guns with superior artillery lent by the English. It took a toll of Baburao Vaidya the Maratha captain.[4] The Maratha force became helpless as Sambhaji Angre stayed away at Vijaydurg at this time.[5] Diagusted with this stalemate Baji Bhivrao, Peshwa's Sardar, showed his unwillingness to ramain in Konkan and[6] requested the Peshwa to call him back.[7] Although Baji Bhivrao took

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1. S.P.D., Vol.33, L.189, p.158.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid., L.203.
5. Ibid., L.193.
6. Ibid., L.195.
7. Ibid., L.194.

measures to protect the forts of Bankot and Pankot, a skirmish with the Sidi's men ensued near Bankot in which the enemy was repulsed by the Marathas.[1] Baji Bhivrao was reporting to the Peshwa the difficulties of the campaign and details of fight before Gowalkot. It was very difficult to hold on against the enemy's onslaught unless funds and provisions were quickly supplied from Satara by the King.[2]

In the middle of May 1734, Shahu made changes in the command of Gowalkot. He deputed Krishna Dabhade, and Sambhaji Berge to Konkan who arrived in Konkan in the middle of May 1734. Udaji Pawar was asked to encamp near Gowalkot during the Monsoon.[3] Although King Shahu was enthusiastic about Konkan campaign, due to dissensions among the Maratha Sardars some had left Anjanwel and Gowalkot inspite of Shahu's strict orders to them to remain there.[4] Having learned about dissensians in the Dabhade family, Shahu left sorry for having recalled Bajirao from Konkan campaign.[5] Chitnis and the Shahu's Sardars called fresh reinforcements from Satara in the hope of assaulting the place, but the reinforcements never came.[1] Due to long and weary hot days in the month of May, most of the besieging forces from Konkan returned to the capital,[2] leaving the chances of Maratha Victory very remote. So chitnis raised the siege and came back to Satara in June 1734.

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[1] S.P.D., Vol.33, L.195.

[2] Ibid., L.202.

[3] Ibid., Ls.203, 206.

[4] Ibid., L.205.

[5] Ibid.

In the rainy season of 1734 Brahmendra Swami came to the Konkan. Thereupon, all his disciples, including Angre brothers, went to see him. Sambhaji Angre met the Swami and chided him. The Swami took an insult of Sambhaji's misbehaviour and cursed him. After the departure of Bajirao to Satara, Sambhaji Angre laid siege to the fort Anjanwel. Because of stiff resistence from the Sidi he soon came to know that the siege would linger for a pretty long time. So he paid his attention to the domestic affairs. Sambhaji Angre asked his brother Dondaji and Manaji to conduct the affairs at Kolaba. Manaji was also given command of naval force at Kolaba.[3]

This arrangement continued for four months. Thereafter, clashes between the two brothers came to the fore. Sambhaji relieved Dhondiji of the charge of Kolaba affairs. He wanted to do away with Manaji whom he suspected as partisan of the Peshwa and

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1. S.P.D., Vol.33, L.189.
2. Ibid., L.204, 214.
3. Kavya Itihas Sangraha, L.119.

and Brahmendra Swami. When Manaji whom he suspected treacherous behaviour of his brother Sambhaji towards him, he ran away from Kolaba and took refuge with the Portuguese at Revdanda. After Manaji's escape from Kolaba Sambhaji went towards Vijaydurg. In the meantime with the help of the Portuguese came back with his naval force and attacked Manaji.[1]

Manaji got an assistance from the Peshwa to whom he yielded the fort of Kothigad and Rajmachi and replulse Sambhaji.[2] Because of Sambhaji's hectic behaviour he came unpopular with Bajirao, Brahmendrawami and Shahu Maharaj. Bajirao got ennoyed with Sambhaji as the latter could not capture Anjanwel, a job which was assigned to him by Bajirao before his departure from Konkan. In the rainy season of 1734 when the Swami came to Konkan, Sambhaji forcibly took away from him his Kambal, gun and his flag which irritated the Swami.[3] The Kinggot much displeased with Sambhaji. Because of his quarrel with his brother, Sambhaji had lost hillock fortress of Thal to the Sidi. Besides, the English at Bombay were afraid with the naval force of Sambhaji.

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1. Rajwade, M.I.S. Vol.IV, Peshvyanchi Bakhar, p.41.
2. Nairne, op.cit., p.88.
3. Parasnis, Brahmendra Charitra, L.313.

They wanted that the war between the two brothers should continue to weaken their strength. They immediately took up Manaji's cause. The forts of Anjanwel and Gowalkot were still to be captured from the Sidis. Due to East India Company's naval help to the Sidi the work of capturing the above mentioned two forts remained lingering. Therefore, when Manaji requested the Peshwa for the help against Sambhaji, the king asked Bajirao to go to Konkan to settle the quarrel of the Angre brothers and to captured the two forts. Manaji, before the arrival of the Peshwa in Konkan, captured fort Anjanwel.

Bajirao arrived in Konkan in February 1735. In the meantime, King Shahu was requested to send provisions to Sambhaji Angre. So that it would enable him to equip his fleet to fight against the Sidi who had already landed near Kelsi.[1] Bajirao who had asked his men to carry "Fattakadi gun"* in Konkan was informed that with great difficulties it was carried upto Nagothane. Bajirao was also asked to be very cautious, as he was hemmed between the Sidi on one hand and the Portuguese on the other. For Konkan expedition also Bajirao was in need of money. Therefore, he deputed his agent at Bombay to try to recover loan from one

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1. S.P.D., Vol.33, L.370.

* Fattakadi gun - which gives noise; 'fut fut'.

Krishnaji Ram whom the British were protecting.[1] However Krishnaji Ram refused to pay to Bajirao which was reported to the Peshwa.[2] with all difficulties explained above, Bajirao started his drive forcefully and from February to April 1735 he helped Manaji to capture the forts Rajmachi, Kolaba, Khanderi and Kohala. The Peshwa called two Angre brothers together at Navadare near Alibag and forced Sambhaji to agree to a peace treaty between the brothers. Sambhaji was to remain content with his southern possession of Vijaydurg. He was also given Sarkheli. A title Vajarat Mab was bestowed on Manaji who was given Kolaba in his possession.[3] From April 1735 the Marathas had laid siege to Gowalkot which contined for 1 ½ years. In the August 1735, Suryaji Chawan was deputed to help the Marathas to finish the capture of Gowalkot.[4]

Earlier in April 1735 Sarkhel Sambhaji was asked by the King Shahu to prosecute the siege of Gowalkot Vigorously. So the Sarkhel ordered his commandant Bawaji Mhaske to march towards Gowalkot. After reaching Gowalkot on April 4, 1735 the commandant

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1. S.P.D., Vol.33, L.373.
2. Ibid., L.374.
3. Dhabur Kolabkar Angre-Shakawali, p.72.
4. Shahu Roznishi, para 67.

wrote to the king explaining the difficulties of the situation and requested him to send him more men and guns.[1] The contents of these letters were reported to the Peshwa from Satara by his son Nanasaheb.[2] The situation in Konkan was so precarious that the seasoned Maratha commandant Santaji Jadhav informed the king the heavy strain and expenses he had sustained during 13 months of fighting and requested to be relieved within eight days.[3] The Sidi took advantage of the deteriorating condition of the Maratha camp and in the month of June 1735 had started creating disturbances in the Maratha territory.[4] But the heavy monsoon that set in June put a stop to the Military activities and caused a general sickness among the Marathas.

But in September 1735 the Marathas renewed the siege of the Kasibandar from where the progress of fighting in Janjira was reported to the Peshwa.[5] In the meantime, the king got help of two thousand force from the Nizam which was directed in Konkan.[6] The forces were admitted in the Karnala fort by the orders of the King.[7]

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1. S.P.D.Vol.3, L.116.
2. Ibid., L.117.
3. Ibid., L.118.
4. Rajwade, MIS, Vol.III, L.270.
5. S.P.D., Vol.3, L.119.
6. Ibid., L.120.
7. Ibid., L.121.

In April 1735 Sidi Sat got secret information of probable attack by Sambhaji Angre on the forts of Gowalkot and Anjanwel by land and with fleet. He, therefore, requested the British Company to send help off the port of Anjanwel to protect those forts from the enemy's attempts by sea. The English rose to the occasion and despatched a powerful fleet against the Angre.[1] Sidi Sat made a similar request to the Portuguese whose vessels joined the British fleet. On seeing the combined squadron cruising off Anjanwel, Sambhaji Angre got frightened and he called back his commandant Bawaji Mhaske who was stationed in front of Gowalkot.[2]

Another reason for Mhaske's withdrawal was that the Kolhapur Raja and Bhagwantrao Ramchandra of Bawada started depredations in the adjoining territory of the Angre. The king who was informed of this had issued warning to Sambhaji of Kolhapur and the Chief of Bawada to refrain from such activities, but this had no effect. The huzur force sent in the Konkan was also lacking the understanding of military strategy and was incapable of carrying the assault on the fort.[3] Maske already got disgusted

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1. Pub.Deptt.Diary,No.8/1734-35, dt.11 April,1735, p.112.
2. S.P.D., Vol.33, L.334.
3. Ibid., Vol.3, L.123.

with the manner in which the siege was conducted. Therefore, he found the recall orders from Sambhaji as an excuse and when the alarm was raised by the approach of enemy he destroyed his batteris and broke up his camp and went away at a distance of 2 to 3 cos. with his guns. He was reconciled by the commandants of Huzurat but he told them of his master's orders and refused to return.[1]

However, commandant of Huzurat succeeded in persuading Mhaske to stay in the camp. Santaji Jadhav and Durgoji Bhoite, the commandants of the Huzurat force objected Mhaske's carrying away the cannons without permission of the higher authorities. Therefore, Mhaske halted at 2 or 3 cos from the camp but did not return. Action of withdrawal by Sambhaji Angre created panic among the Huzurat force. They fell back on Chiplun and requested the king to recall them at Satara. On November 9th, Sidi Sat came before Gowalkot carrying 22 ships and 2500 force and marked the occasion with discharge of guns.[2] He also came down heavily on the coastal hamlets belonging to the Angre, burning and pillaging them as he desired.[3] It was also reported that the Sidi

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1. S.P.D., Vol. 3, L. 123.
2. S.P.D., Vol.33, L.334.
3. S.P.D., Vol.3, L.169; S.P.D. Vol.33, Ls.336-37, 380.

had effected an alliance with the Dutch who used to bring goods from Surat for sale at Janjira.[1] Even then Sambhaji Angre left Kolaba with his fleet for going to Suvarnadurg. But at Shriwardhan in the creek of Kelsi he had a skirmish with Sidi Sat in which he won the victory over Sidi Sat.[2] To finish off the campaign against the Sidi the king also decided to send more succour with Pilaji Jadhav to the seat of operation.[3] Sambhaji Angre had all along felt that his interest had been neglected by the king and the Peshwa and came to the decision of having peace with the Sidi Sat. When the king cameto know that Sambhaji had proposed a peace treaty by offering Mandangad and Vijaygad to the Sidi, King Shahu had sent a severe warning to him against making any approaches of peace to Sidi.[4] When Pilaji Jadhav learnt that the king was intending him to go to the scene of operation at Gowalkot, he asked Chimaji Appa to impress upon the king that it was no use sending him alone against the Sidi but that the Angre should be first compelled to be in the front in this undertaking[5]

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1. S.P.D., Vol.33, L.329.
2. Ibid., L.333.
3. Ibid., L.331.
4. S.P.D., Vol.3, L.134.
5. S.P.D., Vol.33, L.348.

But nothing prevented Sambhaji to conclude peace treaty with the Sidi which he did by establishing Chawki at Kelsi with the Sidi[1] in the last week of December 1735. It was also reported by the English that the Angre and the Khem Sawants came to terms.[2] In order to put an end to the quarrel between the two brothers, Manaji and Sambhaji Angre, Shahu Maharaj issued orders appointing Manaji as a Governor of the District of Kolaba with full powers as his father and brothers had enjoyed. And at the same time, he ordered him to supply his brother Sambhaji with grain for the subsistance of his possessions to the southwards and in return Sambhaji was asked to deliver to Manaji two Grabs that formerly belonged to the Kolaba fleet.[3] The King's order did not bring desired effect on Sambhaji Angre. He gave up the siege of Gowalkot and took away his material to Makhajan near Ratnagiri.[4] Now Sidi became aggressive. He secretly started preparation for the capture of fort Karnala.[5] Thereupon, it was suggested to the Peshwa to depute his men totthe Portuguese at Goa with a request for naval ships to join in the Konkan campaign against the Sidi as

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1. S.P.D., Vol.33, L.350.
2. P.D.Diary, No.8/1734-35, p.283.
3. Pub.Deptt.Diary 8/1735, p.291.
4. S.P.D., Vol.33, L.353.
5. Ibid., L.355.

the Portuguese were favourably inclined towards the Peshwa at that[1] time. However, the Peshwa sent his Vakil to the English who pointed out them to how the help given by them to the Sidis would be treated as enmical act by Marathas.[2]

The Angre's opposition having been nulified, Sidi Sat decided to capture vital posts belonging to the Marathas. He captured Bankot and demolished it. He also made depredations in the territory from Jaygad to Vijaydurg and burnt the land and pillaged the people. Lord Ganpati of Ganpati Pule was discreted. But nothing came in his hand but the 6 to 7 elderly persons who were there were killed by him.[3]

In January 1736, the Sidi had skirmishes with the Maratha forces in Konkan. He captured Rewas fortress.[4] This news and the news regarding Bankot alarmed the Satara Darbar. The King immediately asked Chimaji Appa to send help in Konkan. He also appointed Pilaji Jadhav to lend succour to fighting forces in the Konkan campaign. The king also ordered a small force of 500 to march under Yamaji Shivdeo to help to invoke a spirit among the

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1. S.P.D.,Vol.33,L.357.
2. Ibid., L.377.
3. Ibid., L.380.
4. Ibid., L.178.

Maratha force. He also asked Gowindrao Chitnis and Bhaskar Vaidya to contact Sambhaji Angre and persuade him to join to resume the operations. He was also promised a reward of restoring Kolaba to him.[1]

Shahu Maharaj was very much interested in capturing Gowalkot as early as possible. It was his intention that Sambhaji should help the huzurat in bringing the Gowalkot in Swarajya. But Sambhaji Angre remained in-different to this cause which the king did not like. Therefore, he refused to accept the presents sent by Sambhaji to him in February 1736.

In the month of February 1736, according to Peshwa's orders, his commander Pilaji Jadhav rushed in Konkan via Talghat to recapture Bankot from the Sidi.[2] The Sidi got frightened and instead of opposing the Maratha force, he during night time quietly removed the stores and provisions and put them in the ships and slipped away by abandoming the place. The Marathas occupied fort Bankot without opposition. Thereafter, Pilaji Jadhav came back to Mahad and to transact the business of Mahad and Raigad,

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1. S.P.D., Vol.3, L.123, 167; S.P.D., Vol.33, Ls.313, 327, etc.
2. S.P.D., Vol.3, L.175.

he halted near Goregaon with his force for two months. The Peshwa summoned him at Satara and assigned to him work of capturing Gowalkot in the month of March 1736.[1]

He was given the force of 2000 for this task.[2] The Peshwa had asked him to act in concert with Chimaji Appa.[3] The Marathas came to know that the Sidi had captured the fortress of Rewas and was intending to push forward on the coast to grab more places belonging to the Marathas. It was necessary to stop his progress by opposing him. Therefore, on 7th April 1736, Pilaji Jadhav started from Satara with his force and reached the vicinity of Gowalkot on 15th April 1736. Without loss of time, he decided his plan of operations and from Chiplun he wrote to Chimaji Appa of his having inspected the situation at Gowalkot for erecting batteries.[4] He entrenched himself at the Dhamni point and in orderto cut off Gowalkot from the outside world he decided to stop completely the passage of vessels carrying provisions to the enemy. For that purpose he wanted help from Satara and Poona which did not arrive till 26th April 1736.[5]

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1. *Ibid.*, L.174
2. *Ibid.*, L.174.
3. *Ibid.*, L.176, L.392.
4. *S.P.D.*, Vol.33, L.392.
5. *Ibid.*, Ls.189, 184, 188, 195.

In the meantime, the Sidi who got help of the English and secret help of Sambhaji suddenly assaulted Rewas with the help of his fleet and killed the entire garrison. The Sidi had an eye on Angre's Kolaba which lay hardly within thirteen miles of Rewas in the straight line. Manaji Angre who was at Kolaba understood the evil designs of the Sidi and sent his Column to oppose Sidi's advance. At the same time Manaji wrote to Satara for immediate help. The Peshwa and his brother Chimaji Appa understood the consequences of development at the Sidi's end. If the Sidi succeeded capturing Kolaba from Manaji Angre, Sambhaji Angre would return to Kolaba which situation the Peshwa and his brother were determined to prevent. Having gathered 2500 infantry and 800 cavalry in the capital of Satara,[1] Chimaji Appa left the capital on 13th and gallaping appeared on the front near Charhai Kamarle on 18th April 1736. The Marathas succeeded keeping the Sidi in dark about the sudden development on his enemy's front.[2] The Sidi had a small Infantry force. The Maratha horse marched forcefully on the enemy's infantry facing the fire.

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1. S.P.D., Vol.3, L.183.
2. Ibid., Vol.22, L.320, 322.

At the beginning, the Maratha horse reeled and wavered for a time. But timely arrival of Manaji's detachment and Appa's determination saved the situation. With a wild yell the Maratha horse rushed head long into the enemy Columns, broke their line and swept every thing before it.[1] The small Sidi force found its position untenable. The Sidi had been caught up by the Maratha force at a point where he could expect no immediate re-inforcement from any side. Nothing, it seemed could save him and his force from total destruction from the Maratha's fierceful attack. However, the dauntless Sidi Sat, his brave Lt. Sidi Yakub and his sardar Sambhaji Ghatge were slain, his force was annitilated and camp plundered. Thus the Sidi was completely destroyed after ten years of his constant harassment. This Maratha triumph was acclaimed as no woned ? victory and it was celebrated by booming guns and beating of drums by the people in the capital.[2] The King became jubilant over the glad news and his joy had no bound. He at once announced various rewards to the persons who exhibited bravery in the battle. To Chimaji Appa robes of honour, a sword and a medellion and the shawl were given. Manaji Angre was

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1. S.P.D., Vol. 3, L.192; Dighe, Bajirao I, p.81.
2. Ibid., Vol.3, L.182.

rewarded with robes of honour and medal*. A messengers from Manaji Angre who came with the thrilling news of joy were rewarded with gold and silver bracelets respectively.[1] There was a happy talk of the king and the people of Satara admiring wonderful fleat of Valour by Chimaji Appa. King Shahu considered the Peshwa and his brother Chimaji Appa as the special favourites of deity Bhargavram as they achieved so many wonders. However, the Peshwa's adverseries the Pratinidhi, Narbawa and Yeshwantrao became sorry for the sudden end of Sidi Sat.[2] Pilaji Jadhav who was besieging Gowalkot sent congratulations to Chimaji Appa on his victory at Carhai.[3] Jivaji Khanderao and other Maratha commandants like Malhar Dadaji Barve, Dwarkaji Patankar communicated to Chimaji Appa their hearty congratulations on the victory he obtained over Sidi Sat.[4] Chimaji Appa also sent news to Bajirao of Sidi Sat having been killed in fight.[5] So also Bajirao received the news of Sidis' fall from his confident Vasudeo Joshi who was working in the Janjira campaign.[1] Fattesingh Bhosle also congratulated Chimaji Appa on behalf of the king and himself on the victory he obtained over Sidi Sat.[2]

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* Shahu himself sent dresses of honour to Chimaji Appa and Manaji Angre. S.P.D., Vol.33, L.402.

[1] Ibid.

[2] S.P.D., Vol.33, L. 406.

[3] S.P.D., Vol.3, L.182, 184, 187.

[4] Ibid., L.185.

[5] Ibid., L.193.

Gowalkot campaign:

It is already stated that Pilaji Jadhav was encamping at Dhamnia village near Gowalkot. He was pressing the king and the Peshwa for more force and cannons and naval help from the Angres. It may be recalled that Sambhaji of Kolhapur had already entered into a pact with Sidi Sat for helping him against the King Shahu. Therefore, in order to obtain Sambhaji's cooperation against the Sidi of Janjira Shahu called Sambhaji for a personal meeting, at Pali, a village 15 miles away from south of Satara in the first week of May 1736.[3] This was the first visit of the two cousins after the celebrated treaty of Warna in 1731. Atleast by this visit the king wanted to nuttify Sambhaji's opposition to the Maratha expansion in Konkan.

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1. S.P.D., Vol.33, L.397, 398.
2. S.P.D., Vol.3, L.194.
3. Ibid., L.194.

Pilaji Jadhav was communicating to Satara the progress of siege against Gowalkot.[1] He also assured the king that he was doing his utmost in the fight of Gowalkot.[2] Chimaji Appa proposed to take advantage of the tide of success by moving down with the force he was commanding and hurting it against the place. He asked Pilaji's advice in such an attempt.[3] There-upon, Pilaji explained to Chimaji Appa the difficulties of capturing Gowalkot.[4] He was of the opinion that more force and help to capture Gowalkot was necessary.[5] So Chimaji Appa despatched two guns and some men to Pilaji.[6] But this was not sufficient. Terefore, Pilaji put forth his demand to Chimaji Appa for supply of men and money for the siege of Gowalkot.[7] Chimaji at once acceded to Pilaji's request and despatched fresh reinforcements.[8] Although men and money were received by Pillaji he gave serious thought to the strategy of blockade as Gowalkot was surrounded by deep water channels. It was his intention to close every point of practical access as to render it dangerous either to enter the place or leave it. He decided to stop Sidi's passage through the creek.[1] In this endeavou he wanted naval assistance of Sambhaji Angre who was hitherto in collusion with the Sidi. Sambhaji Angre was so defiant with the King that he told the representative of the king that the king had no business to put up a fight for Konkan[2] as Konkan belonged to him and the Sidis. Knowing Sambhaji's hostile attitude to the Maratha cuase in Konkan Pilaji Jadhav addressed a letter of request for cooperation to Sambhaji Angre and met him at Jaygad about June 7th.[3] This helped Pilaji Jadhav to silence Sambhaji who gave no help to the Marathas. Jadhav was occupying the ground at Ambadas near Dhamni heights and he was asking the Huzurat troops commanded by Dhumal, Fedtare, Yesaji Anant and Bhoite to erect batteries at Kalusta. But they remained in active in their cantonment and neglected erecting batteries. So Pillaji's method of blockade did not take shape.[4] In this way whole of May and June passed away. Jadhav wrote to the Peshwa giving details of

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[1] S.P.D., Vol.3, L.195.
[2] S.P.D., Vol.33, L.410.
[3] S.P.D., Vol.3, L.183.
[4] Ibid.
[5] Ibid., L.189.
[6] Ibid., L.200.
[7] Ibid., L.204.
[8] Ibid., L.183.

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1. S.P.D., Vol. 33, L.411.
2. Ibid., L.401.
3. Ibid., L.428.
4. Ibid., L. 420.

the fighting at Gowalkot and explaining his difficulties. Lack of coordination in Maratha tactics compelled Pillaji to admit his defeat in utter despairs.[1] As the heavy rains began, men began deserting the camp. Jadhav himself fell ill but vowed to continue the operation in a spirit of do or die. Chimanaji Bapuji, a saraswa Sardar of the Peshwa working at Gowalkot reported to the Peshwa that Pilaji Jadhav had been seriously ailing and requested in the letter that Jadhav should be at once removed from the seat of war to his own family.[2] The same writer stated Pillaji's unwillingness as that was the first commission which Shahu had entrusted to him after 28 years and he could not very well decline it.[3] Pillaji's illness practically sealed the fate of the campaign. Pillaji Jadhav was recalled[4] and a treaty was concluded on the basis of the terms suggested by the Peshwa in 1733. Jadhav arrived back at Poona on 30 July 1736.[5]

Although the treaty was concluded, it was immediately violated by the Sidi by raiding districts round about Pen.[6] Therefore, the negotiations were opened with the Sidi.[7] On

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1. Ibid., L.42
2. S.P.D., Vol.33, L.431.
3. Ibid.
4. Dighe, Bajirao, I, p.84.
5. Ibid.
6. S.P.D., Vol.33, L.432.
7. Ibid., L.433.

25th September 1736, an agreement was reached between the Peshwa and the Sidi thereby bringing peace to the land. By the treaty, a double Government was established in the eleven Mahals of the Sidi's territory.

Treaty between Peshwa Bajirao and the Sidi of Janjira respecting the system of governing the joint control over the territories took place on 2nd of Soorsun 1133.

"The treaty states that, The ryots and cultivators of different Mahals have suffered grievously and ruinously from calamities, distresses and repeated disturbances, whereupon the whole of the Zamindars and ryots of all the nine mahals appeared and submissively represented that unless a treaty is formed between this Government and the Peshwa, the country will never be restored to the enjoyment of peace, tranquility and happiness, and more particularly the fields will never be cultivated; therefore on hearing their petition it was incumbent on the authorities to satisfy and quiet their subjects and restore them to that peace and tranquility; in consequence whereof from the present year the following mode and systems were jointly adopted for the future to conduct the affairs and collect the respective and proper revenue of all the following eleven mahals, viz:-

1. Mamle Tale, exclusive of the Kusba (Chief town)
2. Tarf Nizampoor, excepting the Kusba.
3. Tarf Goregaon, excepting the village Tupegaon.
4. Prant Nadgaonmurud
5. Prant Dive.
6. Pargunna Gosale, excepting the Kusba.
7. Purgunna Birwadee, excepting the Kusba.
8. Turf Govale.
9. Turf Mandle.
10. Prant Sreevurdhana.
11. Prant Mhysle.

This is the treaty for the arrangements of the above mentioned eleven Mahals and it contains and comprehends the following claims, articles and conditions.

(1) The Jamabandy (revenue assessment) of the Mahals should be jointly by the servants of both Governments and all taxes and revenue should be collected by both the parties and received the whole income half and half.

The undermentioned Mahals are assigned to each Government as follows:

To the Sidi Sarkar 5 ½ Mahals namely	To the Peshwa's Government's 5 ½ Mahals namely
1. Pargana Nadgoon Marud	1.Tarf Tale
2. " Shrivardhan	2.Prant Gosale
3. " Dive	3.Tarf Nizampur
4. " Maysle	4.Tarf Goregaon
5. Taluke Mandle	5.Prant Burvadee
11. Taluke Gowale (24 ½ villages)	11.Tarf Gowale.

24 ½ villages	24 ½ villages
Half of Turf Govele, being fifty villages; one village named Vadvali is expected, it being the Inam of the Deshmukh; and the remainder, forty nine villages, were divided half and half, 24 villages and ½ being the share of this Government.[1]	Half of Turf Govele,being fifty villages; one village Varouly is excepted, it being the Inam for the Deshmukh and the remainder, forty nine villages were divided half and half, 24 villages and ½ being the share of Peshwa's Government.[1]

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[1] Jervis, *Georgraphical and statistical Memoris of the Konkan, pp.121-136;*
Vad, *Treatis, Agreements and Sanads,* pp.107-122.

Treaty dated 25th September 1736.

By the above treaty dated 25th September 1736, a double government was established in the eleven mahals of the Sidi's Territory. It was decided to collect revenues of the eleven Mahals jointly by the two powers and for this purpose agent or agents to be appointed by them in the Mahals administered by the other party. The port of Rajpuri was to remain with the Sidi; Roha was to remain exclusively under the control of the Marathas.[1]

The establishment of double Government in the eleven mansls was an arrangement which worked obviously to the advantage of the Maratha power, enabling them to infiltrate its influence in the Sidi's country. Only his island forts of Janjira, Kausa and Underi remained with the Sidi. Due to the presence of Maratha revenue collectors in his territory, it was difficult for the Sidis to become hostile towards the Marathas. His large number of naval ships were destroyed. So the Sidi became, in all but name, a tributary of the Maratha State.[2]

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[1] Dighe, op.cit., p.84.

[2] Ibid.

The Sidis and the Peshwa

After strenuos struggle the Marathas could not destroy the Sidi. The Sidis remained the masters of Janjira, Anjanwel, Gowalkot and Underi. The Peshwa got only Raigad, Mahad, and Bankot. Raigad as a capital of Shivaji had lost its significance during these days. Although the leading Maratha soldiers and statesmen like Bajirao, Chimaji Appa, Shripatrao Pratinidhi, Damaji Thorat, Pillaji Jadhav had taken part in this campaign at various times, their achievement was very insignificant. The causes seem to be as follows:

(1) There was no unified command.

(2) Shahu Maharaj, sitting at Satara, should not have held the control of the Konkan operation.

(3) Bajirao instigated the Sidi to defeat Shripatrao Pratinidhi.

(4) The Peshwa also secretly asked the Angre not to cooperate with Shripatrao Pratinidhi during this campaign.

(5) The Maratha Navy under Sambhaji Angre did not cooperate with the land force of the Peshwa in blockading the Sidi's forts nor preventing the English suceour to the Sidis.

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1. Dighe, op.cit., p.84.
2. Ibid.

Despite the treaty, the Marathas continued the siege of Gowalkot till February 1737, without achieving any success.[1] At this time Sambhaji Angre had a desire to attack Bombay.[2] In September 1740 Manaji Angre defeated the Sidi of Underi who attacked Thal and Nagothana.[3] Manaji continued to be unfriendly with the Sidis as reported by the English on 12.4.1744.[4]

Sambhaji Angre died on 12 February 1742.[5] His brother Tulaji succeeded to the command of Vijaydurg. King Shahu had ordered Tulaji to capture Anjanwel. Tulaji tried to buy neatrality of the English in this affairs. Therefore, Tulaji approached the English and expressed his desire for concluding treaty of peace with them.[6] How can the English compromised with their sore enemy Angre? They did not want Anjanwel to go to the Marathas.[7] They gave negative reply to Tulaji. When the Peshwa Balaji Bajirao came to know this, he wrote to the English saying that Tulaji Angre was deputed by Chhatrapati Shahu to capture Anjanwel and therefore they should not obstruct him.[8] However, the English turned a deaf ear to the Pesnwa's letter and helped

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1. S.P.D., Vol.33, Ls.247-249, 283-285.
2. P.D.Diary No. 10A, pp.147-51.
3. Rajwade, M.I.S., Vol.3, p.513.
4. P.D.Diary No.17A, 12 April, 1744.
5. Rajwade, op.cit., No.3.
6. P.D.Diary No.17E, pp.430-31.
7. Ibid., pp.428-29.
8. Ibid., p.440.

the Sidis against Tulaji Angre.[1] King Shahu also urged the English to despatch their envoy to Satara to iron out differences if any and not to help the Sidis.[2] The Peshwa also requested the English to leave the Sidi alone to fight with Tulaji Angre.[3] There was no effect of these two letters on the English. They continued their policy of helping the Sidi Yakubkhan who sought their help by despatching letter dated 27.1.1745 as follows "Under God my chief reliance on the company and your friendship and my land and wealth are at your disposal and therefore what need I write more?[4]"

Tulaji Angre attacked Anjanwel from land and the sea, blockaded and captured it. On hearing the news of capture of Anjanwel, Sidi Yakub of Gowalkot ran away from the fort. Shortly, Tulaji besieged Gowalkot and succeeded in capturing the same.[5] Shahu got much pleased when he heard victory news from Tulaji Angre

The Killedar of Underi suspected the Maratha designs to capture Underi after the conquest of Anjanwel and Gowalkot. He

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1. P.D.Diary No.18A, 14 Jan.1745.
2. Ibid., pp.65-66.
3. Ibid., pp.67-68.
4. P.D.D.No.18A, 27 Jan.1745.
5. Vaidya, Vaidya Daftar, Vol.4 (1745), L.6.

informed the English that unless she was helped immediately the fort would either fall in the hands of Angre[1] and requested for the help of war material. However the English refused to acceede to Sidi's request.[2] Manaji Angre attacked the fort of Underi. It was repulsed by the Sidi with a defeat and a wound on the thigh of Manaji.[3] He got the Peshwa's help[4] and the combined forces inflicted a deafeat on Sidis.[5] For about 8 years there seems to be an unsigned truce. The hostilities were renewed in May 1758.

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[1] P.D.Diary, No.18A, pp.118-21.
[2] Ibid., No.20, pp.212-3.
[3] S.P.D., Vol.24, L.188.
[4] Ibid., 6.
[5] Ibid., L.189.

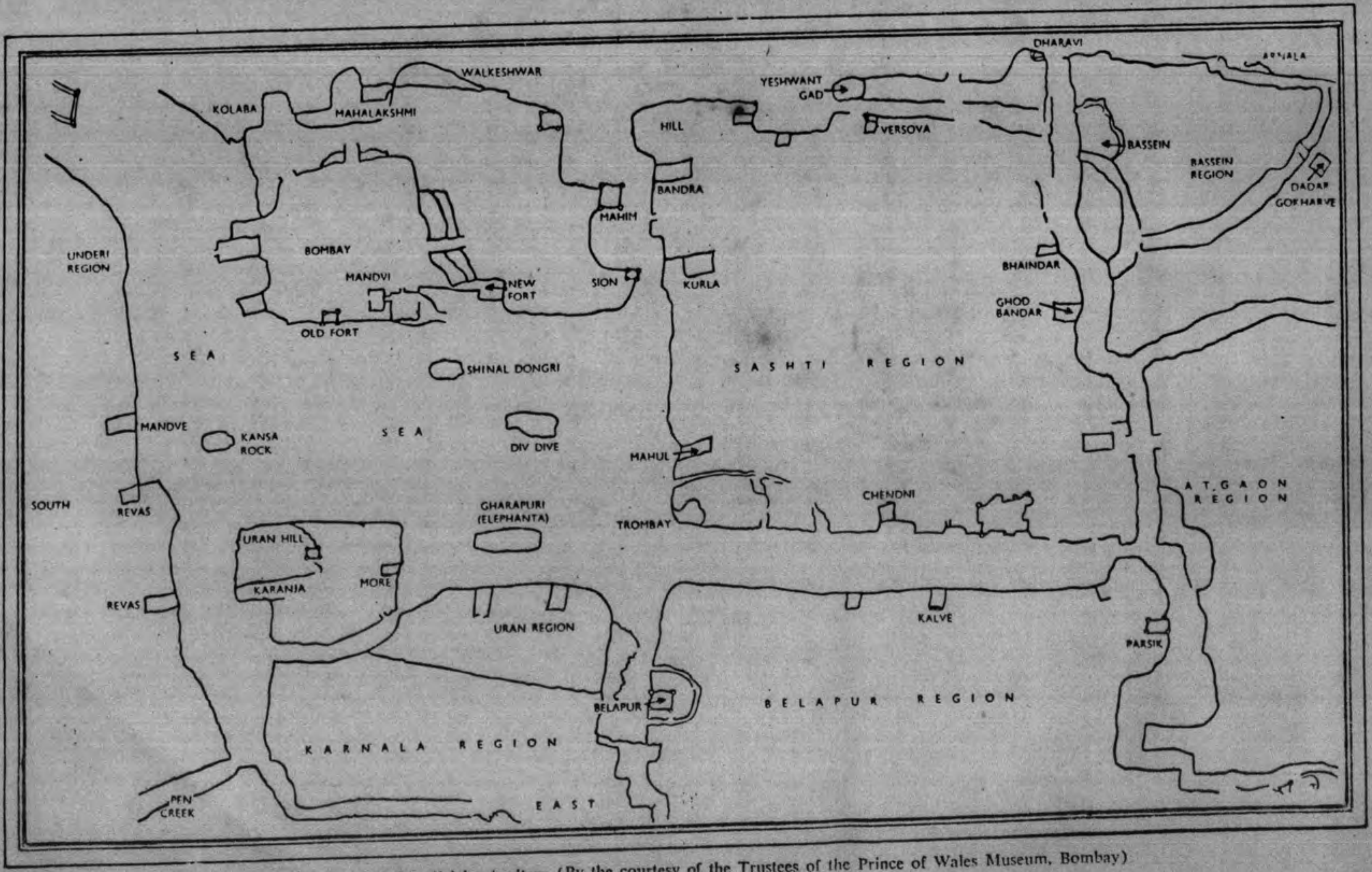
DHARAVI
ARNALA
WALKESHWAR
YESHWANT GAD
KOLABA
MAHALAKSHMI
HILL
VERSOVA
BASSEIN
BASSEIN REGION
DADAR
GOKHARVE
BANDRA
MAHIM
BOMBAY
UNDERI REGION
MANDVI
NEW FORT
SION
KURLA
BHAINDAR
GHOD BANDAR
OLD FORT
SEA
SHINAL DONGRI
SASHTI REGION
MANDVE
KANSA ROCK
SEA
DIV DIVE
MAHUL
A T G A O N REGION
SOUTH
REVAS
CHENDNI
GHARAPURI (ELEPHANTA)
TROMBAY
URAN HILL
MORE
KARANJA
REVAS
URAN REGION
KALVE
PARSIK
BELAPUR
BELAPUR REGION
KARNALA REGION
PEN CREEK
EAST

Fig. 2—Bombay and the adjoining territory (By the courtesy of the Trustees of the Prince of Wales Museum, Bombay)

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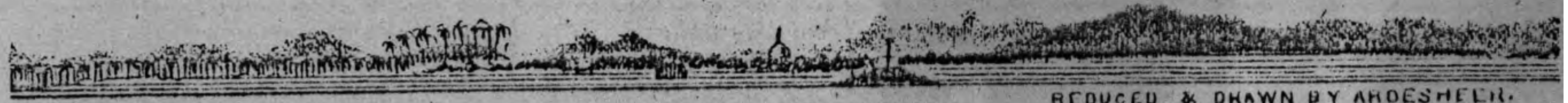
MAHIM FORT.

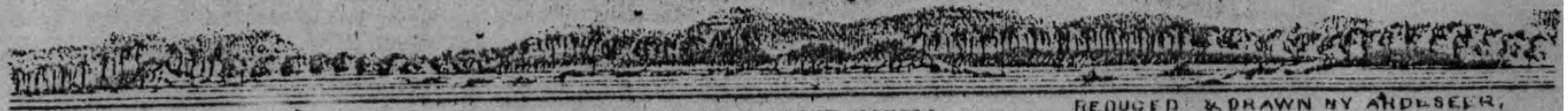
LIEUT. JOHN McCLUER'S SURVEYS IN THE LIBRARY BY. GEOG. SOC.



VIEW OF THE LAND ABOUT MAHIM RI

REDUCED & DRAWN BY ARDESHEER.

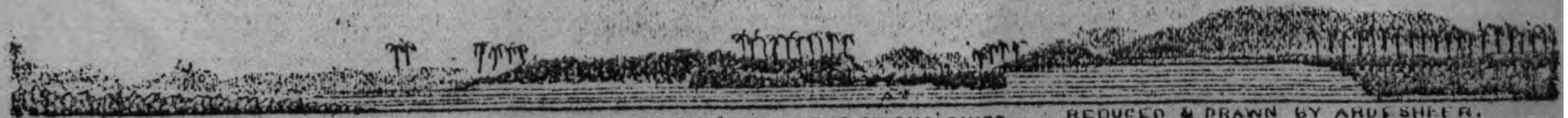
Ibid.



VIEW OF THE LAND ABOUT MANORA.

REDUCED & DRAWN BY ARDESEER.

Ibid.



VIEW OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE MURVA RIVER.

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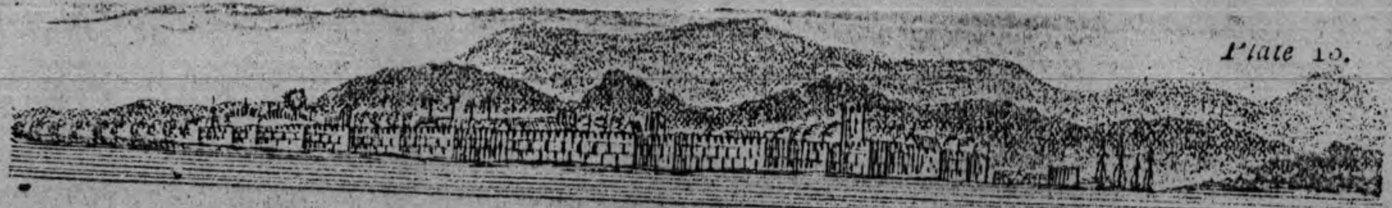
Plate 15.



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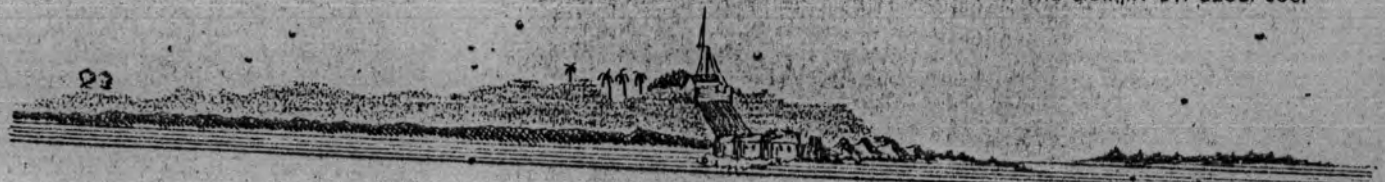
BASSEIN FORT, AS SEEN FROM THE RIVER.

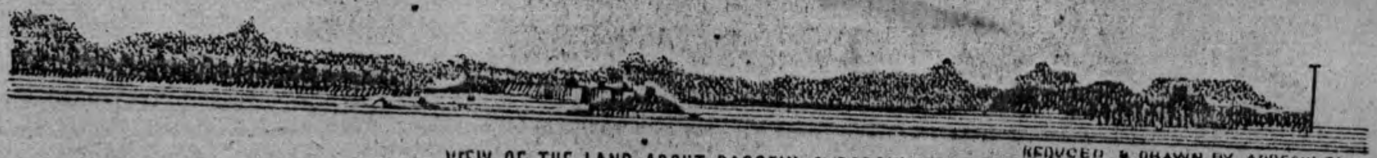
LIEUT. JOHN McCLUER'S SURVEY IN THE LIBRARY BY. GEOG. SOC.



DARAVI POINT IN THE BASSEIN RIVER.

REDUCED & DRAWN BY ARDESHEER.

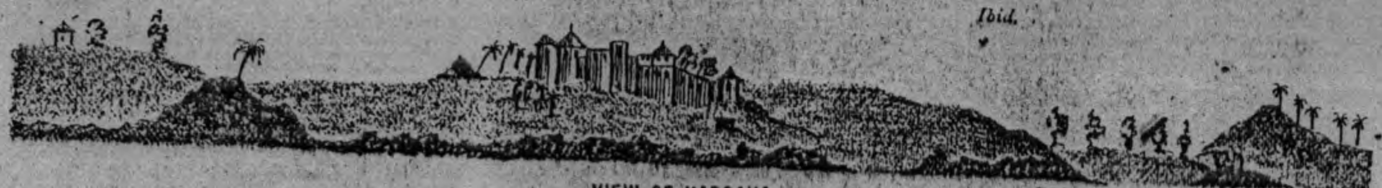
Ibid.



VIEW OF THE LAND ABOUT BASSEIN & DARAVI.

REDUCED & DRAWN BY ARDESHEER.

Ibid.



VIEW OF VARSAVA.

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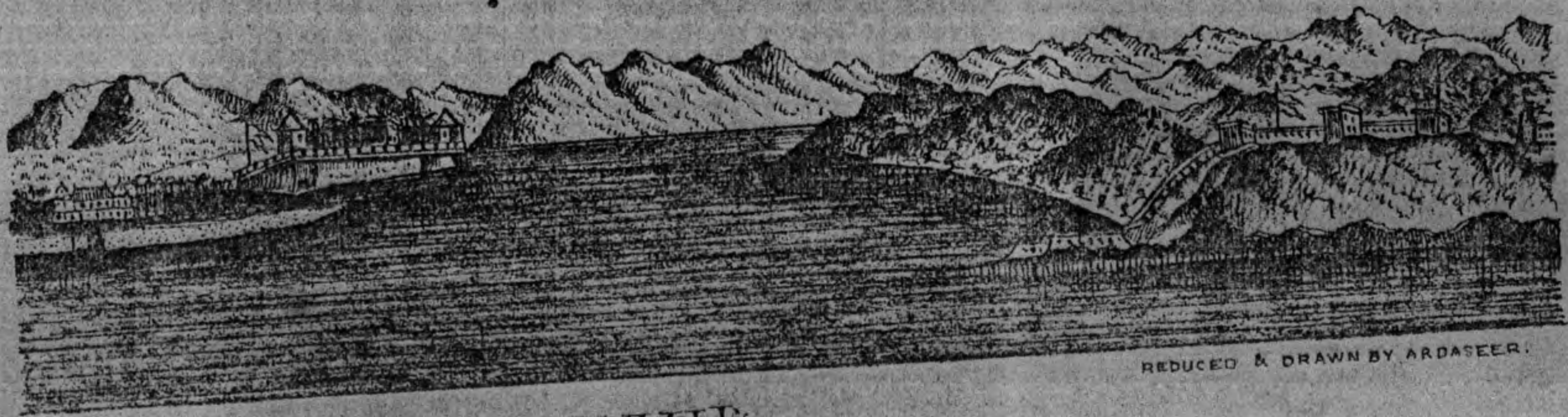
LIEUT. EDWARD HARVEY'S PLAN IN 1777, IN THE LIBRARY BY. GEOG. SOC.

Plate 2.



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CHAUL.

VIEW OF THE CHAUL FORT FROM THE SEA.

FROM DALRYMPLE'S DRAWINGS IN THE LIBRARY BY. GEOG. SOC.

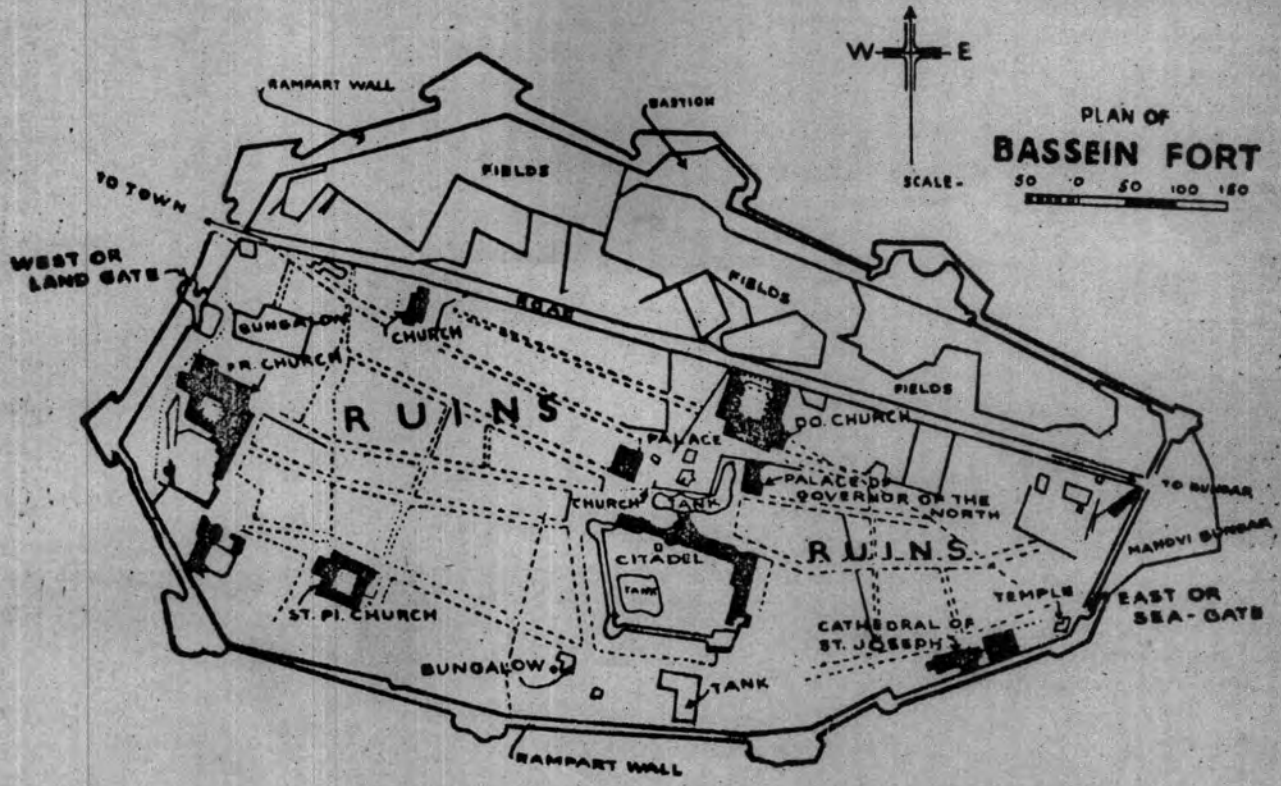
PLAN OF
BASSEIN FORT
W
E
SCALE-
50 0 50 100 150
RAMPART WALL
BASTION
FIELDS
TO TOWN
WEST OR LAND GATE
ROAD
FIELDS
BUNGALOW
CHURCH
FR. CHURCH
RUINS
FIELDS
DO. CHURCH
PALACE
PALACE OF GOVERNOR OF THE NORTH
CHURCH
TANK
TO BUNDAR
MANOVI BUNDAR
CITADEL
TANK
RUINS
ST. PI. CHURCH
TEMPLE
EAST OR SEA-GATE
CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOSEPH
BUNGALOW
TANK
RAMPART WALL

Fig. 3—Fort of Bassein

CHAPTER VI

PESHWAS GAIN SUPREMACY IN THE LAND (Continued)

1707-1756.

1. Expulsion of the Portuguese,
2. Fall of Angre.

After the conclusion of the treaty, the Portuguese ~~xi~~ viceroy of Goa conde de Sandomil began a policy of -- aggression against the Sawant of Wadi and of persecution against the Hindus. His example was faithfully followed by his subordinates, throughout the Portuguese dominions.[1] He began to build a strong fort at Thana in 1734. A general tax was levied on the Hindu subjects for meeting the heavy expenditure of the defences. They were also ordered to - furnish labour and ships for the works. The heavy taxation and the demand for labour created discontent among the populace and in desperation they invited the Marathas to take possession of the island of Salsette.[2] The Portuguese also sided Sambhaji Angre against Manaji whose cause Peshwa had upheld. When the Peshwa came to know that the Portuguese had supported Sambhaji whom the Peshwa disliked, they became the particular object of his hatred. Moreover, the Portuguese undertook to expediate completion of the construction of Thana fort. By April 1735, excepting the watch-towers, looking over the river side, the main fortifications were nearing completion.[3]

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[1] Parsnis, Brahmendraswami Charitra, pp. 62-67.

[2] Danvers, II, p.402; S.P.D., Vol.26, L.11.

[3] Kakodkar, Portuguese and the Marathas, pp. 182-183.

On their side the Marathas watched the progress of the work with an uneasy mind. They realised that once these defences were ready their passage into Salsette would be barved and they therefore determined to strike.[1] According to the treaty of 1732 Bajirao requested the Portuguese Viceroy to allow the Marathas to establish a factory on the Salsette Island and that its site should be selected by the General of the North. Venkajirao Joshi, Bajirao's brother-in-law, went to meet the Portuguese General and demanded the site. He lost his temper and used abusive words calling, fair and handsome Bajirao a negro.[2] When informed, Bajirao took this as an insult and resolved to take revenge. He made a speedy and vigorous preparation with greatest secrecy and swiftness. That Bajirao would invade Bassein was reported to the Portuguese at the end of April 1735 by Laxmibai Angre, widow of Kanhoji.[3]

The operations against the Portuguese were conducted in a number of island outposts and fortresses spreadon the coast. To follow this clrearly, a brief description of these places is necessary.

As one sails northward by the coast from Kolaba and Khanderi, the first considerable island is that of Bombay.

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1. S.P.D., Vol.16, Ls.8, 13.
2. Parvate, Portuguese-Mahratta Relations, p.135.
3. Marathyanchya Itihasachi Sadhane (Portuguese), p.153; Parvate, op.cit.

East of Bombay, Karanja and the north of Karanja, Gharapuri and Turambe or Trombay islets. North of Bombay is the present Bandra which was an island at that time and when one leaves Bandra there rises the fortified island of salsette or sasti with a dependency of 66 villages. At the month of Panvel creek stood the town of Belapur. Nearer Thana were Anjur and Kelve. These last were inhabited Chiefly by Pathare Prabhus, who had religions quarrels with the Portuguese and had appealed to Bajirao. To the east of Bandra was the strong place of Marol. Off the coast between Andheri and Bassein was a row of islands. To the west of Goregaon was the fort of Vesava, called by the Portuguese versova. Beyond Versova again was Malad, of which the Inamdars Antaji Raghunath and Ramchandra Raghunath were in secret correspondence with Bajirao. Near Bassein was the fortified island of Dharavi. On the opposite bank to Bassein, but a little further up stream was the fort of Ghodbandar, which guarded the southern mouth of Ulhas river. Beyond Bassein was the fort of Tarapur and the towns and talukas of Mahim, Dahanu and Ambargaon. On the shore near Bassein was the fort of Arnala. To the north east were Manora and Asheri.[1]

According to the English at Bombay "Bajiraos' real intention in attacking Tannah and the passes near it was in order to facilitate their entrance on Salsette."[2] In February

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1. Kincaid and Parasnis, History of the Maratha people, Vol.II, pp.251-52.
2. Pawar, "English Records on the Conquest of Salsette by the Marathas in 1737", in Studies in Maratha History, Vol.I, p.3.

1737, the Peshwas' brother Chimaji Appa was appointed to command the expedition and sent in advance Shankaraji Pant Phadke, Ramchandra Hari, Chimani Bapuji, the Anjurkar Naiks and others, to proceed with their preparations and make dispositions with the utmost secrecy.[1] On the occasion of Bhavani's worship at Poona, leading people of Salsette like Namaji Deshmukh, Bhikaji Haibat rao, Hiraji Thakur, Murarji Thakur, Kalvekar, Goregaonkar and a Koli etc. were specially called with their followers with the intention that no body would suspect the special gathering of troops on the worship day.[2] Bajirao then appointed Shankaraji Pant Phadke to the Chief command, Gangaji Naik to the army against Bassein and Khandoji Mankar to the army against Salsette. Bajirao also ordered Ramchandra Hari Patwardhan and Khandoji Mankar to collect an army of one thousand at Kalyan.[3] While these armies were gathering on the frontiers, neither the Viceroy of Goa nor the general of the North gave any serious thought to the ~~rox~~ problem and they remained in a defenceless -- condition, although the Governor of Bombay and warned the General of the North about the proposed invasion of the Marathas well in advance.[4] The General "had then only Eighty Europeans and a few topasses which were hardly sufficient to man one fort and he had five or six to maintain."[5]

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[1] Dighe, Bajirao I, p.168.

[2] Naik, Sastichi Bakhar, p.37.

[3] Ibid.

[4] Pawar, op.cit., p.3.

[5] Ibid.

The Marathas had arranged very carefully all the details of their surprise attack upon Salsette. Chimaji Appa ordered Antaji Raghunath Narayan and Ramchandra Joshi and hest of others to march in advance towards Kalyan with -- troops.[1] They descended to Kalyan and Bhivandi and then on the night of Saturday 26th March 1737, they pounced upon Thana prectically from all sides.[2] They overpowered the Portuguese so much that the latter had to abandon the place by 11 a.m. the next day.[3] It was the fear of the Marathas that the construction of Thana fort, when completed, would render their plan to conquer Salsette impracticable.[4] On 27th and 28th of March, the entire Maratha force had crossed overto Salsette and took possession of the fort and town.[5] Narayan Joshi stormed the fort of Parasik and invested the fort of Belapur.[6]

On April 6 and 7, the Maratha troops practically - occupied the whole island. So the Portuguese had with them only, Bandra, Versoa, Karanja or Uran, and Bassein Castle.[7]

The Bombay President in council got a news about the the Maratha designs to invade his territories. So upon the

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1. Kakodkar, op.cit., p.185.
2. S.P.D., Vol.22, entry No.349; Public Deptt.Diary, Vol.X, pp.71-3.
3. Pawar, op.cit., p.3.
4. Sastichi Bakhar, p.9; Kakodkar, op.cit., p.183.
5. Sastichi Bakhar, p.38.
6. Ibid.
7. Parvate, op.cit., p.132.

first notice of the Maratha success, the President posted reinforcements to the several outposts with orders to guard them against the possible attack from the Marathas.[1]

The Marathas now determined to attack Bassein. One detachment had succeeded merely in entering the district or island of Bassein. This news of Maratha assault on Bassein reached Goa on 12 April 1737.[2] The Maratha force under the command of Shankaraji Phadke had to stop outside the --- formidable walls of the Bassein fort discussing the plans after the failure of the attempt to surprise Bassein.[3] A detachment command by Narayan Joshi attacked Belapur. Belapur resisted for sometime. The captain of the fort was in --- distress for want of water and ammunition. He therefore requested Bombay President to send him succours immediately on 28 April, 1737. The time given was very short for the English to make the necessary preparations and send the necessary supplies for relieving the said fort.[4] The -- Portuguese could not hold on it against the determined attack of the Marathas. The fort was surrendered to the Marathas who permitted the garrison to march out under arms withtheir beggage from Bassein.[5] In this assault, Homaji Balkawade's 37 men got wounded and 4 killed. Khandoji Mankar found his

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[1] Pawar, op.cit., p.6.

[2] Parvate, op.cit., p.133.

[3] S.P.D., Vol.26, L.42; Vol.34, Ls.20,22,25.

[4] Public Deptt. Diary, Vol.9, p.134.

[5] Ibid., p.135; S.P.D., Vol.16, Ls. 47,56; Pawar, op.cit., p.10.

74 men wounded and 8 killed.[1] When the Maratha detachments approached santacruz, near Kalyan, and Marol, in the island of Salsatte, the garrison in the respective forts surrendered at the first summons.[2]

The Marathas tried to occupy the two island ports of Bandra and Versova. Homaji Balkawade led an attack against the fort and vainly tried to carry the place by escalade. But the attack was repulsed at the cost of several casulties.[3] Island port of Bandra was surrounded persistantly by the - Marathas since 10th April.[4] Their plan of scaling the walls was frustrated with considerable loss. Thereafter the Marathas attacked the two small points that guarded the fortress. But that attempt was foiled with the help of the British which reached in time. The Marathas tried their best to capture the place by constant attack. But due to incessant gunfire from the ships they sufferred a heavy mortality during the course of fifty six days of the siege and having no hope to better the lot, withdrew on 5th June 1737.[5]

Another detachment of the Marathas laid siege to -- Versova which, even though a small fortification, was of great importance as a part of the island of Salsette and was capable to berth the ships of high capacity. Their incesent fire on

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1. S.P.D., Vol.22, L.119, p.69.
2. Public Deptt. Diary, No.10, pp.110-1.
3. S.P.D. Vol.16, L.50; Danvers, II, p.403.
4. Kakodkar, op.cit., p.199.
5. S.P.D., Vol.16, L.143; Public Deptt.Diary, Vol.10, pp.71-73.

the walls was met with the return fire. Therefore, they got disheartened in the attack and withdrew with the loss of some men.

The port remained open to the enemy and was -- strengthened by reinforcements carried in by D'Souza Pereira.[1] The Marathas had caputed Dharavi, just south of Bassein and had a forceful battery in it. Maratha battery at Dharavi was obstructing the Portuguese communication with Goa and Bombay. It was necessary for the Portuguese to remove the Maratha obstacle in the way. A strong party of Portuguese forcefully attacked the Dharavi and captured.[2] it. The Maratha force before the Bassein, determined to capture it by assault. But it was not an easy task asthe Bassein fort was in peculiar position. The citadel of Bassein which was the main symbol of Portuguese power in this part of the country resisted all the land attacks that were launched bythe Marathas against it. A mile and half in circumference and trangular in shape, the the fort had strong stone walls rising to the height of thirty to forty feet from the ground and about five feet in thickness. Four-sided bastions rose from each corner on which strong artillery was mounted. To the south of the fort ran the Vasai creek, and the west was washed by the open sea. The eastern side was bounded by a belt of marshi land over-flown by tidal waves, while the north provided the only land passage for

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1. S.P.D., Vol.16, L.50; Vol.34, L-24; Danvers, II,p.403.
2. S.P.D., Vol.30, L-346; Danvers, II, p.404.

attack.[1] The fort was considered impregnable. When the Marathas encamped before the Bassein, they saw before them an open country of 14 to 16 miles run. There they overran the open country and captured all places. Barwaji Takpir captured fort Fivdham.[2] Immediately after that, the other Maratha commanders took over Takmak and Kamandurg.[3] Tandulwadi was occupied on 2nd May 1737[4] Mandvi stood a siege of about ten days[5] as also Manowi.[6] Both came into the Maratha - possession on 16th and 20th May respectively. So also the Maratha commander Shankarji Pant captured the island of Arnala at the mouth of Waitarna.[7]

The Peshwa's general wrote to him about the importance of the place as follows, "Arnala is a fine harbour commanding a good many creeks where the fleet can seek shelter or sally out for an attack swiftly and easily. It will be another Bassein from which the enemy's territory upto Mahim can be threatened."[8] There, it was subjected by Shankaraji Keshav, the Peshwa general that a fort at Karnala should be built on a strong and permanent basis with strong bastions.[9]

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1. Maharashtra State Gazetter, Thana District, p.163.
2. S.P.D., Vol.16, Ls-44, 118.
3. Rajwade MIS, II, p.76.
4. S.P.D., Vol.76, L.61.
5. S.P.D., Vol.34, Ls.164, 168, 171, 175; S.P.D.,Vol.16, Ls. 62,63.
6. S.P.D., Vol.34, Ls.59, 189.
7. S.P.D., Vol.16, Ls.37,40; Sastichi Bakhar, p.42; Dighe, Bajirao I, p.172.
8. S.P.D., Vol.16, L.40.
9. Ibid., L.37.

The Marathas turned their attention to the captured fort of Bassein. On 9 June 1737, the Marathas attempted to escalade the fort but with too success.[1] Thereafter, they ventured an assault on the fort on the night of 8th July 1737. But they were punished with considerable loss by discharging heavy fire from the fort.[2] From the loss that the Marathas suffered in this attack, they realised that merely manpower was not enough to fight back the resistance they experienced at Bassein. They, therefore, laid blockade to the fort from the land and diverted their gun men for the conquest of the province.[3] Now the General of the North waited for the help from Goa. One war-ship which had started with ammunition from Lisbon in 1736 April reached Goa in October 1737.[4] Thereupon, The Goa cabinet discussed the situation created by the Maratha invasion of Bassein. They came to know that Chimaji Appa, the proudest commandant of Shahu Raja was in the war field with 30,000 Veteran and courageous soldiers and he was behind the chain of battles by which he endeavoured to finish up the Portuguese once for all. Therefore, they thought of abandening the forts of Mahim, Tarapore, Asserin, Kelve, Shirgaon, Dahanu and Bandra or demolishing them and defending for preservation the forts of Bassein, Chaul, Daman and Diu.[5] These measures,

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1. Ibid., L. 37.
2. Kakodkar, op.cit., 203.
3. Ibid., p.204.
4. Kakodkar, op.cit., p.207.
5. Y.N.Kelkar, Vasaichi Mohim, p.52.

they thought, would ensure the security and vigorous defence of the main forts and would reduce the liability of the subsistence of the state until aid from Portugal arrived.[1] Goa Government despatched one warship from Goa under the command of Fernando da Costa Loure, captain of the sea and war. She left in the beginning of October with some ammunition, seven thousand sacks of rice and one thousand sherafins in cash, as a supply to the forts of Chaul caranja and Bassein.[3] On receipt of help, plans for regaining of the fort of Thana was considered which was not accepted.[4]

Assault on Mahim (1737, October/December)

After the rainy season Shankaraji Pant decided to laid siege to the forts of Mahim and Kalve and deputed his generals Mahadaji Keshav and Krishnaji Shinde to capture these forts by assault. They arrived before the fort of Mahim in the last days of October. Immediately, they broke through the parapet of the trenches and irritated the soldiers inside the forts by their muskets.[5] They also attacked and captured the fort of Kelve and Shirgaon,[6] both near the fort of Mahim. The

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1. Y.N.Kelkar, Vasaichi Mohim, p.52.
2. Kakodkar, op.cit., p.210.
3. Ibid., p.212; Kelkar, Vasai Mohim, p.53.
4. Pub. Dept. Diary X, pp.179-83; Salsette Chronicle, pp.44-45
5. Kelkar, op.cit., p.54.
6. Ibid., pp.66-67.

Maratha commandant Vithal Pant entered the camp of the fort of Mahim on the last day of October.[1] Kelve, Mahim, Shirgaon and Tarapur forts are close to each other. The Marathas had laid siege to these forts at the same time.[2] But the Maratha attempt to reduce Mahim ended in disaster. Due to enemy's presure, the Marathas abandoned the siege and retired to Shirgaon. There they were attacked by the Portuguese commandant and got dispersed. De Mello the victorious captain, suddenly appeared near Asheri on the 16th January 1738. This action of the captain put the Marathas in confusion. They hurriedly raised the siege, dismantled the nearly port of Manori and sought safety in a junction with the force that had retired from Mahim.[3] The victorious Portuguese attacked the Maratha garrison at Dharavi on 17th February 1738 and annihilated it.[4] The debacle of Mahim and reverses at Dharavi stemmed the tide o Maratha advance and damped their efforts.

The Maratha force in the Konkan got demoralised and started decamping at the least rumour of enemy movements.[5]

In the month of March/April 1738 the Marathas undertook repairs and reconstruction of fort of Thana which they had started in the last May after the capture of that fort.[6] This work continued throughout year 1738.

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1. *Ibid.*, p.65.
2. *S.P.D.*, Vol.16, Ls.73, 74, 76-81, 98, 103, 105.
3. Parasnis, *Brahmendraswami Charitra*, Ls.49, 81, 130, 135, pp. 76, 79.
4. *S.P.D.*, Vol.34, L.11.
5. Peshwa Rozkird, dt.4-3-1738, 30-3-1738; Kelkar, *Vasaichi*

Bajirao came to know the Maratha debacle in Konkan after he got victory over the Nizam at Bhopal on 7th January 1738. He then asked his brother Chimaji Appa to hasten to Kokan at the head of 12000 horse and foot.[1] He arrived at the Konkan theatre of war at Kohaj on 10th February 1738.[2] The inspiring presence of the commander gave a fillip to the drooping spirit of the Maratha army.[3] The parties of Maratha horse under Honaji Bal Kawade and Dhondopant raided the Daman district and laid it waste.[4]

At this time a heartening news came from Goa that the territory of Phonda which belonged to the king of Saunda was occupied by the Marathas.[5] With new enthusiasm, the Marathas commenced defensive works and stockades confronting Portuguese castles almost on the entire front, on 21-3-1738.[6] Krishnaji Gawande reported the progress of the repairs of the fortress of Arnala.[7] Shankaraji Keshav commenced the work of repairs of the ramparts of Bahadarpura and thus tried to add to its strength.[8] In the month of February 1738, same Maratha horsemen went up the top of the hill of Dharavi and established themselves there and fixed Cannons, thus obstructing the passage of ships in the fort of Bassein.[9] On 28th February 1738,

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1. S.P.D., Vol.16, L.75.
2. S.P.D., Vol.34, L.120.
3. Kakodkar, op.cit., p.251.
4. S.P.D., Vol.34, L.120.
5. Kakodkar, op.cit., p.251.
6. S.P.D., Vol.14, Ls.43, 113, 119.
7. S.P.D., Vol.34, L.26.
8. Ibid., L.107.
9. Parvate, op.cit., p.134.

Cardim[1] once again attacked Dongari (Dharavi) and routed the Marathas.[2] On 9 March 1738 Chimaji Appa attempted to take back Dharavi hill from the Portuguese but failed.[3] He was very much hurt by this defeat. He wrote to Poona, "Dharavi' iron has entered my heart and God knows it what could be done ? Nothing at the moment"[4] .

About March 25, Shankarji Phadke saw that the Portuguese warships were removed from the port of Bassein. He suspected that the ships were taken to attack Bahadarpura or Armala. Therefore, he despatched the messengers and asked the Marathas at Armala, Tandalwadi, Mandvi and Jivdhan to be alert.[5] Fort Bahadurpura was in the vicinity of fort Bassein, of 61200 feet away. The Marathas encamped near the fort and started erecting palisade round their camps in the month of April 1738.[6] They also commenced the work of repair of the ramparts of fort Bahadurpura.[7] To obstruct the repair work the Portuguese batteries kept up firing from the fort Bassein.[8] Thereupon the Marathas took precaution for the defence of Bahadurpura and nearby fort Vajragad.[9] Similarly the repairs of the fort Armala was in progress. To prevent the completion of the - stockade that was under construction the Portuguese batteries kept up firing.[10] Inspite of Portuguese obstruction, the

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1. Antonio Cardim De Froes, a Portuguese Officer, came with reinforcements to defend the fort of Bassein in May 1737 He had afleet with him carrying a force of two thousand strong, (S.P.D., Vol.34, L.116).
2. Parvate, op.cit., p.135.
3. Ibid.,
4. S.P.D., Vol.34, L.156.
5. Kelkar, Vasaichi Mohim, p.95.
6. S.P.O., Vol.16, L.119.
7. S.P.O., Vol.34, L.107.
8. Kelkar, op.cit., p.93.
9. S.P.O., Vol.16, L.120.

Marathas completed the repairs of the fort Armala in December 1738.[1] To keep the tide of the Maratha force under check, the Portuguese General requested more supplied from Goa. But the Goa Government refused to do so. In utter dispair the Portugues General resigned his post and went back to Goa on 11 April 1738. In his place Pedro De Mello Mestro de Campo was posted.[2] The Portuguese Viceroy appealed to the English to mediate in the dispute but so long as the Portuguese did not give consent to relinquish their claims to the island of Salsette as per demand of the Marathas, agreement between the two states was not possible.[3] In the month of March the Portuguese with the help of the Sidis launched an attack against Kamandurg. But the Marathas prevented the Portuguese attack and captured the hill fort.[4] The Marathas also captured some Portuguese ships near armala. At Dahanu, in April 1738, the Marathas fought with the Portuguese and gave a crushing defeat. Chimaji Appa, due to his ill health, went back to Pune on 6 June 1738.[6]

Chimaji Appa was away from the Konkan field for six months upto December 1738. During the absence of Chimaji Appa, the Marathas in the beginning of July 1738 with 2000 men took possession of the village Danda Kalal and a hill near it which

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1. Ibid., L.150.
2. Danvers, Vol.II, p.407.
3. Pub.Deptt.Diary, XI, p.125;
   Pawar, Studies in Maratha History, p.40, item (29).
4. Kelkar, op.cit., pp.102-103.
5. Ibid., p.105.
6. Ibid., pp.115-116.

is half a mile from Kalwe. They built here a fort with such speed that they completed it before the end of the same winter.[1] Having thus settled at that sight they despatched a detachment to create hostilities in the jurisdiction of Mahim and Tarapore. In one of the comlests they killed Portuguese captain of Manori alongwith his fifty sepoys.[2]

Thereafter, during the months of August to October 1738, the Portuguese tried to enter into peace threaty with the Marathas through the good offices of the British at Bombay.[3] But the Portuguese did not agree to cede salsette and Bassein to the Marathas. Therefore, the stakebeate continued.[4]

On the battle field in the vicinity of Bassain on Portuguese side there were 897 soldiers of whom 521 were Portuguese and 376 native. Subtracting those on the sick list, there were only 755 soldiers. Besides these, 900 soldiers were engaged in the Bassein campaign. Similarly there were 3000 Marathas and under command of Pilaji Jadhav, there were 7000 soldiers and 700 horsemen ready to go there.[5]

In them month of Nov. 1738 the Portuguese at Bassein received two frigates, there palas and three galvetas from

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1. Danvers, II, p.407.
2. Kakodkar, The Portuguese and the Marathas, pp.207-208; Kelkar, op.cit., p.119.
3. Pawar, op.cit., pp.40-41.
4. Ibid.
5. Parvate, Portuguese-Mahratta Relations, p.135.

Goa. Therefore the General of Bassein went to attack Reis, a fortress constructed by the Marathas in the middle of the river Thana. But a cannon shot from the Marathas killed a Portuguese General. Thus the Portuguese attempt of capturing the fortress in the Thana river got foiled. The death of their general had a depressing effect on the expedition. The fleet returned to Bassein in a mood of despondency.[1]

Bajirao I came to know that the Portuguese in Bassein received aid and supplied through the Sea from Goa and Daman.[2] In orderto stop this, he planned a new streategy for smashing the enemy and capturing the Bassein, the nerve centre of the enemy's activities and the symbol of their rule in North Konkan. The Peshwa decided to despatch the entire forces at his command against the Portuguese and also utilise all sources for destroying their authority in Konkan.[3] Preparations on a large scale were started and the Peshwa's foundries at Poona, Kalyan and Bhivandi began to turn out munitions in huge quantities.[4] They strengthened the defence of the outposts they had abandoned previously in Bassein sector. So also they fortified fortress of Danda

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[1] Ibid., pp.135-136.
Kakodkar, op.cit., p.229; Salsette Chronicle, p.47.
2.
[2] Parvate, op.cit., p.136.

[3] Sastichi Bakhar (Salsette Chroncile), p.47.

[4] S.P.D., Vol. 22, entry 121, pp.70-71.

Khatal.[1] The Peshwa despatched in November 1738, 8000 horsemen and ten thousand footmen underthe command of Shankarji Pant. The Maratha force under Ranoji Shinde entered the Daman district and captured Nargol, Khatalwadi, Umbergaon, Dahanu and carried away standing crop[2] and thereafter they returned to Agashi and Bhadrapur.[3]

To divert the attention of the Portuguese from their Northern province and to stop succour coming from Goa to Bassein by Sea, the Marathas attacked Goa itself in January 1739. The Maratha forces under Dadaji Bhave Nargundkar, Venkatrao Ghorpade and Jivaji Shinde crossing the Dighi Ghat attacked the Portuguese territory of Salsette on 23 January 1739. The whole of Salsette province, excepting the forts of Rachol and Marmagoa, came under the occupation of the Marathas. Taking advantage of this calamitous situation in which the Portuguese were involved, the Sawant of Wadi attacked Bardesh and took possession of it on 22nd January 1739. The Portuguese seeing no escape from the annitilation, immediately showed their willingness for peace treaty.[4]

In the North Konkan affairs were moving very fast. Chimaji Appa who had gone back to Poona on 29th May 1738[5]

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1. Danvers, II, p.407.
2. Parvate, op.cit., p.136; Danvers, II, p.408; Salsette Chronicle, p.48; S.P.D., Vol.16, L-127.
3. Parvate, op.cit., p.136.
4. S.P.D., Vol.16, Ls.147, 150, 160.
5. Rajwade, M.I.S., VI, L.120.

on account of his failing health arrived on the battle field of Konkan with a formidable army in December 1738 and was joined by Shankaraji Phadke from Bassein with 2200 tropps.[1] Thereafter, on 30th December 1738 they invested the Mahim fort and on 20th Janusry the joint Maratha force furiously bombareded the fortifications of Mahim fort with 30 cannons. The inmates in the fort could not face the heavy Maratha firing. Therefore, it was surrendered to the Marathas on 20th January 1739.[2] Vasudeo Dikshit Patankar, the Peshwa's Guru, congratulated Chimaji Appa on the capture of Mahim.[3] The Maratha force under Ranoji Shinde captured Dahanu.[4] Thereafter, the Marathas stommed Kelwe and Shirgaon and put garrison to the sword on 21 and 22 January 1739,[5] Chimaji Appa then proceeded with his army to Tarapur and laid siege to the fort. Tarapur put amore stiff resistance. The Marathas sustained heavy damage due to withering fire from the fort. The fight continued for seven days. Baji Bhivrao Rethrekar died in action. The Portuguese captain of Tarapur, Luiz Veleso Machado also died while fighting. The fort was surrendered to the Marathas and 4000 soldiers were taken prisoners. There were many women in the fort who were made captives, but Chimaji Appa gave them very decent treatment

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1. S.P.D., Vol.34, L.141.
2. Forrest, Maratha series I, p.27; Parvate, op.cit., pp.136-137.
3. S.P.D., Vol.16, L.129.
4. Ibid., L.127.
5. Ibid., L.128; Parvate, op.cit., p.137.

according to a Portuguese chronicler.[1] On being informed of the death of Baji Bhivrao on the battle field, Bajirao assured Chimaji Appa of better treatment being accorded to Baji's son and brother.[2] Another Portuguese writer has recorded that Chimaji Appa played the role of a perfect gentleman with the widow of captain Luis Velezo.[3] From Tarapur they commenced the communications with the hill fort of Asheri to which a force under the command of Haripant was despatched. Haripant occupied it on 3rd February 1739, without firing a shot.[4]

The Marathas under the command of Ramji Mahadeo and Khandoji Mankar prosecuted the siege of Versova with vigour[5] and obtained its submission on 9th February.[6] Thereafter, operations against Dharavi were commenced on 13th February 1739.[7] One captain Tulaji Anant went from Malad to Kasi and thence to Bhaider and Dharavi.[8] He was asked to guard the creek of Murdha so as to make it impossible for the enemy to cross it.[9] He erected batteries by the side of the creek to prevent enemy ships moving in and out.[10] The Marathas spared no pains to raise batteries to attack the

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1. *Ibid*.
2. *S.P.D.*, Vol.16, L.136.
3. Parvate, *op.cit.*, p.137.
4. *S.P.D.*, Vol.16, Ls.130; *S.P.D.*, Vol.22, item 389; Forest, *Maratha Series*, p.27.
5. *S.P.D.*, Vol.34, L.159.
6. Forrest, *op.cit.*, p.28.
7. *S.P.D.*, Vol.16, Ls.138-9.
8. *Ibid*., L.138.
9. *Ibid*., L.139.
10. *Ibid*., L.140.

seaward bastion. It was a troublesome task, the batteries being exposed to the enemy's fire from sea and land.[1] Dharavi was battered into submission by Khaduji Mankar and was surrendered on 7th March 1739.[2] Chimaji Appa had already captured Bhadrapur on 17th February. About this time according to the orders of the Viceroy, Pardi, Bandra, Versova and Dongri were given up for the Marathas to capture.[3] On 21 March Manaji Angre had already taken possession of Karanja or Uran Island.[4] The English in Bombay, with Portuguese collaboration, demolished Bandra fortifications on 25th March.[5]

Bassein was now completely isolated and the Maratha forces began to converge upon the place. To the north of the Bassein fort, the landside was free, but the Marathas had already established their sentinels there. All the three sides were full of mud and sea water. Whaever was all possible to help Bassein was only by sea at grave risk. The siege of Bassein had continued without interruption since April 1737. But in February it was subjected to a close and vigorous siege. Chimaji Appa arrived before Bassein with numarous force on 7th February 1739.[6] The Marathas constructed fortifications on the hillock of Dongari for embarrassing the passage of Bassein. It was

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1. Ibid., L.142.
2. Ibid., L.141.
3. Parvate, op.cit., p.138.
4. Ibid.
5. Forrest, Maratha Seires, p.34; Parvate, op.cit., p.138.
6. Parvate, op.cit., p.138.

protected by eight cannons for obstructing the transport of Bassein. The Portuguese had mounted their long range artillery places over the strong stone walls.[1] The Marathas began laying mines under foundations of the walls in order to demolish them. These attempts of the Marathas met with volleys of fire and connonade from the fort garrison. But the Maratha artillery against the fort walls silenced the Portuguese guns.[2] By this time the Marathas succeeded in springing thirteen mines on the bastions. At 7 a.m. on 13th May 1739, the explosion of two mines partially destroyed the bastion. The Marathas rushed to the attack, but the valient garrison drove them back. The explosion of a third mine caused them heavy losses. On 14th, the explosion of a fourth mine laid the tower of San Sebastian level with ground. The advancing Maratha parties rushed inside through them. There ensued hand to hand fight. All day the Portuguese defended themselves with the courage of dispair.[3] The grim battle lasted for two days. The Portuguese losses amounted to eight hundred officers and men killed and unknown number wounded and the Maratha casualties of dead and wounded amounted to near five thousand, while the total losses in the two years' fighting reached the staggering figure of 22000.[4]

"The firangis fought with genuine Valour and exhibited true soldierly spirit. The men on our side also fought like heroes of the Bharata War", says Chimaji Appa.[1] Beaten by the Marathas the Portuguese came to terms on the morning of 5th. The terms were accepted by the the Marathas. The Portuguese agreed to vacate the fort of Bassein completely with their families within eight days. The Marathas, therefore, stopped their cannonade. The Portuguese were allowed to remove their families and all their baggage to ships. On 12th of May the Portuguese vacated the place completely.[2]

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[1] Forrest, Maratha Series, pp.31, 36.

[2] Ibid., p.39.

[3] Sinha, Rise of the Peshwa, p.197, Letter written by Chimaji Appa on 13th May 1739 to Brahmendraswami gives graphic account of the battle.

The gains tot the Marathas may be mentioned in the words of Danvers : "The acquired the entire northern province from Varsowa to Daman with their four Chief ports, three hundred forty villages and a revenue of 2,50,000 rupees. They gained besides Bassein, eight cities, twenty fortresses, two fortified hills, the famous island of Salsette with the city of the same name and the island of Arnala. Daman escaped as also Chaul and Diu.[3] On 23rd, at an auspicious moment, the Marathas hoisted their flag on the walls of Bassein.[4] A peace treaty was concluded by the combating parties through the mediation of the British at Bombay.[5] Thus the power of the Marathas had risen beyond all comprehension. They had worsted the Sidi, and almost ammihilated the Portuguese on the western coast in Konkan.

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[1] One hundred and thirty four cannon and sixty mortars poured their fire upon the town and the fortifications and silenced the enemy's guns (S.P.D.,Vol.23,L.121).

[2] Sinha, op.cit., p.198.

[3] Danvers, Vol.II, p.411.

[4] S.P.D., Vol.22, p.72.

[5] The final treaty was concluded late on 6th September 1740. The full Text of the treaty available in the Peshwa Daftar Ghandni Rumal 481 is reproduced in Counter- Memorial of the Govt. of India to the International Court of Justice Vol.II, March 1958- Annexes, pp.534-536.

By the end of May 1739, the Peshwa became Supreme in the Konkan.

How the Peshwa humbled the incorrigible Angres on the western coast in Konkan is a sad story narrated in the subsequent pages.

It has already been stated earlier that the Konkan region comprising districts Thana, Kolaba and Rantagiri except Bombay and Goa was a part of Swarajya territory of Shivaji. It was captured by the Mughals during Chhatrapati Sambhaji's time. In this land of Konkan, the Sidis of Janjira became the admiral of the Mughals and ocupied Anjanwel and Surarnadurg[1] himself as a power near Alibag. The Portuguese became so strong on the Western coast that they would not allow to and fro movement of any ship without having taken possession of their cartaz. In the South, Khem Sawant by a policy of friendship with the Mughals, increased his territory.[2] At the time of death of Aurangzeb, Kanhoji Angre was in command of the Maratha fleet. He adhered to the side of Tarabai in her efforts against Shahu, who had now returned tothe home land from the Mughal Camp.[3] He made it the chief object of his

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1. Nairne, Konkan, p.79; Jervis, Konkan, p.92.
2. Ibid., p.79.
3. Ibid., p.80.

policy to compel the maritime nations on the west coast to acknowledge the Maratha Soverignty of the sea. Every ship was expected to sail with his Cartazes failing which they were deemed legitimate prizes and sent under escort to one of the Maratha ports.[1]

They were retorting like the Portuguese that they were soverigns of the Sea, and not pirates. They also demanded that other powers should seek their cartaz after paying a stipulated fee while sailing in the sea over which they claimed, to have established their jurisdiction.[2] The British thought that to crush the Angres was absolutely impossible; therefore, the only choice left to them was to consolidate their position and to multiply their resources, and in the meantime to give all possible support to the Sidi to make use of him as a foil to the Angre.[3]

As regards the Sidis and the Marathas their mutual relations continued to be far from peaceful. Several skirmishes took place between them during the year 1700. In that year, Marathas burnt several villages in the neighbourhood of Danda-Rajapuri. In retaliation the Sidi blockaded the entrances by Sea to Angre's castee. While the Sidi wasthus engaged, Kanhoji Angre laid waste Thull and other places, plundered those parts, and carried away booty and people on his way. These contests kept the Sidi

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1. Hill, "*Piracy in Eastern waters*," *Indian Antiquary*, July 1926, p.124; para 468;
   Moreas, "*Kanhoji Angrias' Relations with the Portuguese*" *Journal of the University of Bombay*, Vol.X, part I, July 1941, p.34.
2. Sen, *op.cit.*, p.71.
3. Edwardes, *Rise of Bombay*, pp.140-141.

quiet for sametime.[1] However the Sidi charged the English that they were assisting the Marathas secretly.[2] However, the Angre was the only enemy the English had to fear on Sea.

Rise of Kanhoji Angre :

We have seen that after the capture of Raigad the Mughal forces penetrated from the south in Konkan and occupied the ports of Chaul and Rajapur. The Maratha navy was at that time in the vicinity of fort of Kolaba and some ships were under the command of Kanhoji Angre. At this time Kanhoji Angre rose to the occasion and showed his provess.

It is said that the Sidis had laid siege to the fort of Suvarnadurga for a considerable time. Kanhoji Angre was in the fort with Killedar Achahoji Mohite. Both severely attacked the besiegers. In one of the sorties, Kanhoji fell into the hands of the Sidi and was made a prisoner. extricating himself fromk the confinement, Kanhoji managed to reach the walls of the fort and beat off the Sidi's attack.[2] Thus Kanhoji won his first laurels in an engagement against the Sidis.

The auther of Kulabkar Angre Sarkhel[3] gives us a few more details about the early life of Kanhoji. In an ambush between Kanhoji and the Sidis, we have seen that

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1. Banajik Bombay and the Sidis, p.56.
2. *Ibid.*, p.57.
3. Mawjee and Parasnis, Kaifiyats Yadis and Sanads,

Kanhoji was imprisoned and put into stocks. On their way to Danda Rajapuri, the party camped near a river. Since it was cold, the soldiers made a log-fire and slept around it. Kanhoji saw his opportunity and set to the wooden stocks clamped on his hands and freed himself from the confinements. He killed five or ten soldiers by seizing a sword fromx one of them. Then he plunged into the river and swam across the creek and reached a village called Hamrul. Thereafter, he went to the village Tadil and sought shelter in a house of Faki, a Mussalman. The Sidis' soldiers pursued him. Faki put Kamhoji under blanket and made him lie near a child of his daughter. Thus the soldiers were deceived. The next day Kamhoji reached Suvarnadurg. After this incident (1689) Kanhoji was promoted to the post of second-in-command of the fleet and after five years of meritorious service, the title of Sarkhel was bestowed on him by Tarabai.[1]

In Konkan Kanhoji was working under Sidhoji Gujar who was his admiral.[2] In 1689 Kanhoji achieved signal victories over the Sidis at Sagargad and Rajkot. The Sidi was compelled to accept the terms of treaty by which it was agreed that the revenues of the territories of Rajkot, Sangargad, Uderi and Parhur should be divided between the two,[3] viz. Sidhoji Gujar and Kamhoji Angre. Gujar did not agree to this proposal. Therefore, a quarrel arose between Sidhoji Gujar and Kanhoji in which Sidhoji was imprisoned

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[1] Ibid., Angre Shakavali, p.9.

[2] Chitnis, Malhar Ramrao, Sambhaji Maharaj and Thorale Rajaram Maharaj Yanchi Charitre, p.10.

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by Kanhoji.[1] Shortly after, Sidhoji died in the prison (1698) and Kamhoji succeeded to the chief command of the fleet.[2] In the year 1704 Kamhoji is addressed as Sarsubha of the Navy.[3]

Kamhoji was faced with a two fold task. As the admiral of the Marathas he had the responsibility of protecting the Maratha merchantmen and the coastal traders from bhe depredations of the Sidis. His aim was to secure the sovereigmty of the sea for the Marathas.

In the year 1712, Kamhoji Angre was in the possession of territory 120 miles in length and 60 in breadth He was also in possession of great riches and formidable naval force.[4]

In 1713, mainly due to the persuasion of Balaji Vishwanath, the Peshwa of Shahu, Kamhoji acknowledged Shahu as the King of the Marathas. Kanhoji was confirmed as admiral of the Maratha fleet and placed in charge of the coast line from Kolaba to Vengurla with control over the inland of Palgad, Rasalgad, Kharepatan and Rajapur.[5] In the agreement of 1716 the Konkan territory was shown ad distributed between Shahu Maharaj, Kamhoji Angre and Bhosles

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1. *Ibid.*, p.512.
2. Hill, "Piracy in Eastern Waters," *Indian Antiquary*, July 1926, p.124, para 468.
3. Avalaskar, *Angre Kalin Patravyavahar*, L.19.
4. Bendrey, *Downfall of Angre's Navy*, p.19.
5. Nairne, *Konkan*, p.82; Sardesai, *N.H.M.*, II, pp.25,26.

of Kolhapur as follows : Shahu should have Subha Dabhol with 4 forts in it and Subha Mand and 2 forts, from Subha Chaul city of Chaul, Sudhagad, Bhorap and fort Raigad; Kanhoji Angre was given the territory of Kolaba, Khanderi, Mriggad, Saranggad from the territory of Subha Chaul; From the territory of Kalyan, Manikgad, Vikatgad, Bahiraodurg Shrivardhan, Manranjan Kothala; from Rajapur Subha Vijaydurg, Dungara, Jaygad, from Subha Dabhol Rasalgad, Fattegad, Kanakdurg, Suvarnadurg, Goa, Palgad in all 19 forts. Sambhaji of Kolhapur was given Ganganbayda, Ratnagiri, Rahipatgad of Subha Rajapur, Mahipalgad, Rajhauragad of Subha Belgaon, Prasidhagad, Rangana, Sindudurg, Malwan, Fort Kudal and Santoshgad of Subha Kudal.[1] Kanhoji Angre soon made his powerfelt in all directions with the Maratha fleet now dominating the coast; the English, the Portuguese and the Sidis all tried to attack Kanhoji and weaker his power, but without any success. To reduce Angre's power, the English attacked Vijaydurg not less than seven times, and Khanderi not less than three times, not to speak of their March on Kolaba in combination with the Portuguese but each time they received a reverse.[2]

To stop Angre's depredations on 18th June 1718 war against Angria was declared by the English and the Portuguese. The Angre gave a crushing defeat on the Anglo-

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1. Shahu Daftar Rumal, 33; Kolhapur Chhatrapati Gharanyacha Itihas Sadhane, Parts 1-2, L.20, pp.38-39.
2. Apte, Maratha Navy, p.243.

Portuguese alliance. The result of this defeat was that the claim of the Angre to the soverignty of the western sea was universally recognised. As the Portuguese Viceroy reported in his letter to his sovereign on January 1721, he found that all the ships of the North prepared to sail with his passports in order to be assured of their safety. He also levied a contribution of Rs.7 lakhs from the coastal villages of north Konkan.[1]

About the sametime, the decay of Portuguese power and the withdrawal of the Mughal claims to the Konkan (1720) further increased Angres' importance.[2] A treaty with Shahu Maharaj allowed Kanhoji full independence in the management of Konkan and assured him ample resources for the navy so long as he acknowledged the king of Satara as his Liegelord and paid him tribute. After the peace treaty with King.Shahu, Kanhoji's strength was daily increasing. In 1721 Kanhoji's fleet was composed of gurabs and gallivats numbering. Eight or ten of these gurabs and forty or fifty gallivats.

Kanhoji died on 20th June 1729 A.D.[3]. Till his death he was the master of the entire coastal area, excepting Dabhol and Anjanwel held by the Sidis of Janjira. In 1731, the district was divided between ruling houses of Satara

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1. Moraes,"Kanhoji Angria's relations with the Portuguese" Journal of the University of Bombay, 1941, p.43.
2. Grant Duff, History of the Mahrattas, Vol.I, p.344.
3. Sen, The Military System of the Marathas, p.189.

and Kolhapur, while the territory north of Vijaydurg came into the possession of Rajas of Satara.[1]

To check the growing power of the Maratha fleet under Angre, the English in 1730, formed an offensive and defensive alliance, with Sawantwadi. They agreed that neither should attack the ships of the other, that the British ships attacked by the army should receive all the aid and assistance, that their ports should be open and free to each other for trade, that they should join to attack the sons of Kanhoji and that the British should supply the Bhosle of Sawantwadi with war like stores and artillery.[2] The Phond Sawant had also offensive and defensive alliance with the Sidi in 1733 against the Angre but had no particular result. In 1733, King Shahu declared war on the Sidis of Janjira. The immediate cause was the sudden and unprovoked attack of Sidi Saat of the Janjira general on the temple of Parashram. Shahu retained the command of Konkan campaign with him and directed Pant Pratinidhi and Peshwa Baji Rao I to go to Konkan and fight the Sidis with the help of Angre brothers. After the death of Kanhoji in 1729, of his sons, Sekhoji succeeded him at Kolaba and was given sarkhelship by Shahu. Sambhaji, Sekhoji's brother, was given the charge of Suvarnadurg.

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1. Vijaydurg itself remained with the Angres. The Sidi had still retained the districts of Mahad, Raigad, Dabhol and Anjanwel.

2. Sardesai, N.H.M., II, p.136.

Part played by Sekhoji Angre in Konkan Campaign.

King Shahu had asked Sekhoji Angre to join Peshwa Bajirao to help him to achieve success in Konkan campaign. In the last week of April 1733, Sekhoji was busy in capturing Ratnagiri from the Sidi. After taking over Ratnagiri from the Sidi, Sekhoji feared same trouble round about Ratnagiri. So his contingent remained engaged in guarding Ratnagiri against possible attack of the Sidi.[1] Thereafter, Sekhoji met the Peshwa at Rajpuri and was with him for a fortnight from 9-7-1733.[2] Sekhoji considered Underi as a hand of fort Janjira and showed his readiness to go and capture it.[3]

At the beginning of June 1733 Shekhoji provided some artisans (Sailors, carpenters lohar etc.) to the Peshwa as required by him as a measure against the enemy.[4] Sekhoji also ruled out the probability of an open attack by the Sidi but asked the Peshwa to guard against the surprise attack by him.[5] At the same time he took measures for opening an attack on the fort of Thal[6] after capturing Rajkot and Chaul.[7] Sekhoji informed his victory at Chaul[8] to Chimaji Appa. Tajuddin Khan had held the Mughal outpost at Rajkot near Chaul.[9] He had destroyed an old temple near

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1. S.P.D., Vol.33, L-10.
2. Ibid., L-11.
3. Ibid., L-15.
4. Ibid., L-17.
5. Ibid., L-18.
6. Ibid., L-22.
7. Ibid., L-23.
8. Ibid., L-26.
9. Ibid., L-16.

Rajkot. He used to carry on espionage on the Angres for the Sidis.[1] His general Tukoji Kadu made an assault and captured Rajkot on 2 June 1733.[2] Sekhoji Angre asked for Peshwa's help for an attack on Thal[3] which was in the possession of the Sidis. It was attacked by Sekhoji. In the battle that ensued the horse under Sekhoji Angre was struck by a shell from Underi, Sekhoji fortunately escaped.[4]

The Maratha force under Sekhoji sealed and captured Thal on 7 July 1733.[5] The Marathas had earlier captured the gadhi(small hillock) of Rewas on 4 July 1733.[6] Those who offered resistance were killed and the rest fled away. Sekhoji explained to the Peshwa how he planned and carried by assault the fort of Thal. He also suggested the measures for defendingthe captured places.[7] The English were alarmed at the capture of the Thal by the Angre and his intentions about Underi.[8]

Operation against Underi.

By his letter 8-6-1733, Sekhoji Angre assured Bajirao that he would start operations against Underi and promised to do his utmost to carry them out successfully.[9] By another

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1. S.P.D., Vol.33, L-23.
2. Ibid., Ls. 22, 23.
3. Ibid., Ls. 30, 37, 39.
4. Ibid., L.58.
5. Ibid., L.58.
6. Ibid.,
7. Ibid.
8. Pune Deptt. Diary, No.5, pp. 148-149.
9. S.P.D., Vol.33, L-29.

letter of the same date, Sekhoji brought to the notice of the Peshwa intention of the Portuguese at Uran to capture Negothane, Pen, Panvel and Abite, the villages on the bank of revellet. To prevent Portuguese action he suggested to Bajirao to post some guards and men at important places to detach the Portuguese and others who carry succour to the Sidis.[1]

It was noticed that Tajuddin Khan had destroyed a temple of Bhargar at Chaul. Sekhoji undertook repairs of the temple and requested Bajirao to order one Khandi of Chunam to be given for the repairs of that temple.[2]

By letter dated 14-6-1733, Sekhoji asked the Peshwa to send as many men as possible for undertaking of Underi campaign.[3] He also persuaded Abdul Majid Khan to raise the siege of Kalos which he did and gave it in the possession of the Marathas.[4] Fort Ravali near the river Pen.was captured by Sekhoji from the Sidi. In the month of July 1733 Bankaji Naik trusted and valiant and subordinate of Sekhoji occupied Bankot and Mandangad fortresses and led his victorious armies on Gowalkot and Anjanvel, which were ably defended by Sidi Sat, as they were in the vicinity of the shrine at Chiplun. A fierce battle was fought at Gowalkot in the 2nd week of July and Sidi was defeated[5] but he fled

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1. S.P.D., Vol.33, L-30.
2. Ibid., L-33.
3. Ibid., Ls.34, 37.
4. Ibid., L-36.
5. S.P.D., Vol.3, L-14.

into the fort and did not surrender it.

Bajirao captured the forts of Tala and Ghosala. All the Sidis Princes came together at the fort[1] Janjira and made vigorous preparations to oppose the Marathas. Bajirao opened the fire on the fortress from the main land. Manaji Angre, Sekhoji's brother attacked it from the sea and captured the Sidis' fleet in the ports. Thereafter Marathas destroyed the protecting fleet of the Sidi.[2] Pratinidhi was directed to capture Anjanvel.

Bakaji Mahadik was also asked to proceed against Anjanvel. He passed by the Parasharma temple and wrote on 16th July 1733 : "thus, on the way I found a Sidi officer intent on destroying this (Parsharam) a holy place, plundering and burning the houses of the Brahmins and slaughtering cows. I at once attacked the enemy and after a stubbom fight pushed him back across the river."[3] How the religions feelings ran high is shown by the fact that the various communities inhabiting this region represented to the Peshwa that they were ready to collect funds of one lack by private contributions for preventing religious atrocities in future".[4]

On the advice from Sekhoji, Bajirao established outpost at Danda, Rajpuri, Nanivali, Kumbhani points from which the Sidi was suspected of drawing provisions.[5] To seduce the

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1. S.P.D., Vol.3, L-2.
2. Parasnis, Life of Bramhendra Swami, p.50.
3. S.P.D., Vol.3, L-15.
4. Purandare Daftar, I, L-104.
5. Ibid., L-105.

garrison of Janjira the Peshwa was advised by Sekhoji to declare that his intentions were limited to secure the succession of Abdul Rahman and establish a lasting peace between the two neighbours.[1]

Sekhoji had recently captured an English ship called the Rose, which he held to ransom for Rs.7603 which was paid by the English.[2] In the Board's meeting of 13th July, the President of the English company at Bombay observed that "the combined arms of Raja Shahu and the Angre got the possession of town of Rajapur and a sort of fortress called Cocree (Kassa) with all the Sidis fleet of Grabs and Gallivats, their Guns and war like stores and nothing but the fort upon the Island in that harbour holds out against them."[3] The Marathas also made a violent attack on Janjira both on land and on sea.

On 16th July 1733, Sekhoji wrote to Peshwa Bajirao of the rumour that the Sidis had handedover Underi to the English in return for their help against the Marathas.[4] This rumovs came true. Balaji Ballal and Gangadhar Kasi were already negotiating with the English on behalf of Sekhoji Angre and trying to secure their neutrality, but to no effect.[5] In a letter to Peshwa Bajirao, Sekhoji Angre on

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1. S.P.D., Vol.30, L-95.
2. Banaji, op.cit., Appendix, L-57, p.228.
3. Public Deptt. Diary, 5, p.148;
   Banaji, op.cit., p.216.
4. S.P.D., Vol.33, L-65.
5. Ibid., L-67.

20th July 1733, referred to the combination of the English, the Portuguese and the Sidis. He mentioned their proposed plan of attack on the marathas. The Portuguese were to attack on Chaul and the English at Kolaba. This could compel Sekhoji to recall his troops engaged at Anjanwel and Janjira. The combined forces were to attack Rajpuri.[1] Sekhoji Angre suggested to Bajirao to call help from Shahu Maharaj. He wished that the combined fleets of Kolaba and Vijaydurg would raise the siege of Kolaba and attack Bombay which would be short of troops.[2]

The predminant position of the Marathas thus upset the balance of power in the Konkan. This awakened the English to a sense of danger, for they had already suffered at the hands of the Angres and now if his power was to be supreme in the Konkan it would be bad for their safety.[3] Therefore they decided to capture Underi which is nearnest to Bombay.[4] The English directed their battleship called "MARY" under the command of James Inchbirds[5] with a force to aid the Sidi in defending his island of Underi. The ship arrived off Underi on the 16th and getting down on the island, hoisted the English flag under the discharge of the artillery of the fort and the gallivats.[6] The nearby island Khanderi was

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1. S.P.D., Vol.3, L-23.
2. Ibid., L-24.
3. Ibid.
4. Banaji, Bombay the the Sidis, p.217.
5. Ibid., letter No.55, p.218.
6. Ibid., p.221.

under the charge of Angre. On seeing the British flag flying on Underi, the Angre continued firing briskly his batteries at Underi from Khanderi and from Thal. But no damage was done. Therefore there was no need to continue firing there further.[1] On the 18th gallivats and boats[2] returned to Bombay with the families of the garrison.

Sekhoji Angre was anxious about an alliance of the English and the Sidis against him, and therefore suspended the shell-fire against Underi[3] and sent messengers to the British for negotiations. In a letter dated 4 August 1733, Sekhoji Angre informed the Peshwa of the progress of the negotiations. The English insisted that they should be permitted a free passage and need not possess Dastak of the Angre.[4] Sekhoji Angre who died on 29 August 1733, gave instant support to the Peshwa. But his successors defied the Peshwa's orders. Therefore the Peshwa had to punish the Angre. How it happened is narrated in the following pages.

Ever since the rise of the Maratha confederacy under Shahu , the problem that always beset its leader, the Peshwa, was how to compel the recalcitrant Maratha Sardars to pull together. After the defeat of Sidis, Bajirao got convinced that unless all the chiefs in Konkan were brought under his subjection, there cannot be peace and prosperity in Konkan.

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1. Pub.D.P.BA., p.245.
2. Forrest, Home series, Vol.II, p.54.
3. S.P.D., Vol.33, L-68.
4. P.D.Diary 5 A, pp.211.
5. S.P.D., Vol.3, L-42.

The Peshwa's struggle with the Dabhades and Angre and later-on with the Gaikwad was a matter of principle, of policy. The Peshwas were fighting to maintain an equilibriam in the Maratha confederacy by enforcing interdependence of its various members in matters of finances and Jagirs. For this, the Peshwas had to bearin their life time a great deal of criticism.

According to the Policy of the Peshwa, as mentioned above, Bajirao I after humiliation of the Sidi set forth to impair the strength of the Angres by fomenting their quarrels.[1] It is already stated that after the death of Sekhoji on 29th August 1733, dispute broke out between his brothers Sambhaji and Manaji. Manaji asked Bajirao's intervention. Bajirao with the tacit consent of King Shahu divided the Angre's estate among the two brothers. The territory from Suvarndurg to Vijaydurg continued with Sambhaji who was given title of the Sarkhel, while Manaji was alloted the share held by Sekhoji namely the territory north of Suvarnadurg with headquarters at Kolaba and given the title of Vajaratmab. A treaty to this effect was concluded between the two brothers.[2]

The disputes between Manaji and Sambhaji, notwithstanding the division of Kanhoji's estates agreed upon, continued and led to open clashes. In 1737, Manaji, with

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1. Sinha, Rise of the Peshwas, p.185.
2. Sardesai, N.H.M., Vol.II, p.177.

the help of Peshwa, repulsed as attack by Sambhaji and the Portuguese.[1]

In December 1736, Commodore Bagwel with four grabs was crusing in search of Sambhaji's fleet at Gheria and on 22nd came upon nine of his grabs and thirteen gallivate coming from the Vijaydurg river. The commodore chased them and did much damage and killed their admiral. Thereafter, they took refuge in the Rajapur river.[2]

In 1740, Sambhaji took possession Bharatgad, Bhagwantgad and greater part of the wadi, possessions in the Salshi province.[3] In 1740 Sambhaji threatened Kolaba[4] itself. But the Peshwa's timely help saved Manaji.[5] Having received the news about Sambhaji's attack on Kolaba, the Portuguese anticipated the perilous consequences that may result out of this attack. Therefore, they decided to help Manaji to prevent the fall of Kolaba and despatched an aid by sea to Manaji.[6]

On 6 April 1739 it was reported to Chimaji Appa that the Dutch fleet attacked the fort Vijaydurg, so Sambhaji Angre attacked the Dutch strongly by sailing in their

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1. *Maharashtra State Gazetteer*, *Ratnagiri*, p.166.
2. Pub. Deptt. Diary, No.12 A, 1739, pp. 30,39.
3. Nairne, *Konkan*, p.88.
4. Pub. Deptt.Diary 13-A/30, March 1740, pp.209-211.
5. Rajwade, *M.I.S.*, Vol.2, pp.17, 27.
6. Kakodkar, *op.cit.*, pp.390-391.

direction. Their two gallivats were captured, sunk and the cargo there on was brought into Vijaydurg fort.[1] In the same month, Sambhaji claimed Korla and Revdanda as his.[2]

In the treaty of Bassein that was concluded with the Marathas by the Portuguese, there was an article regarding Angre which runs as follows : "If in conveying the Hindu, Christian or Muslim families from Bassein more transport ships are required, they should be supplied by the Marathas and should be allowed to reach their destination without being molested by Angre."[3]

In 1740 Sambhaji noticed the Portuguese fleet escortin the ships full of rice to Goa. So he attacked and took possession of the ships load with rice and destroyed fleet.[4] Sambhaji Angre did not give up his attempt to capture Kolaba. Sambhaji Angre's coming up to Kolaba was in concert with some of Manaji's own officers that he had accordingly got possession of the fortress of Alibag.[5] Thereafter, he raised batteries against Kolaba. He would have got it into his hand had not the British fleet appeared in that critical juncture off Kolaba (31 March 1740).[6]

Thereafter, with the help of his half brother Tulaji,

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1. *Peshwa Daftar*, Vol.34, L-156; Sen, *Early career of Kanhoji Angria and other papers*, pp.30-31.
2. *P.D.*, Vol.33, L-464.
3. Forrest, *Home Series*, Vol.I, p.40.
4. Dhabu, *Kulabkar Angre*, p.61.
5. Pub. Deptt. Diary, 13A, dated 30-3-1740, pp.209-211.
6. *Ibid.*, p.216.

Sambhaji again attacked Manaji's territory, took Alibag, Thal, and Sagargad, laid siege to Kolaba and cut off the garrisons' supply of fresh water.[1] Tulaji was bravely fighting alongwith Sambhaji to capture Hirakot.[2] In these disputes Manaji appealed to the Peshwa Balaji Bajirao. Shahu Raja also ordered Bhagwantrao Amatya to go to the help of Manaji and inform the news of defeat of Tulaji Angre.[3] Chimaji Appa went to Konkan to help Manaji with Peshwa Balaji Bajirao in April 1740.[4] The British too at this time came to help Manaji with their squadron.[5] Manaji attacked the besiegers and took Tulaji prisoner (9th April 1740).[6] At this time the Portuguese sieged Chaul, Pal and Mirgad.[7]

The Peshwa brought Tulaji to Poona as captive and released him.[8] The English commodore joined Manaji with his division on the 3rd[9] and chased Sambhaji's fleet to the Ratnagiri coast and forced Sambhaji to retire to Suvarnadurg.[10] Suspecting Peshwa's evil designs of keeping Kolaba for himself, Manaji immediately reconciled with

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1. Pub. Deptt. Diary 13-B, 1740, pp.218-219.
2. Angre Shakawali, p.90.
3. Rajwad, M.I.S., Vol.8, L-157.
4. Ibid., M.I.S., Vol.2, pp.17, 27; P.D.Vol.13A, 1740, pp.229-33.
5. Pub. Deptt. Diary 12-A, of 1740, pp.212-13.
6. Ibid. 13-B of 1740, pp.253-54; Patre Yadi Vagaire, L-35.
7. Ibid.
8. Parasnis, Brahmendra Charitra, L-154.
9. Pub. Deptt. Diary 13-B 1740, pp.226-27.
10. Ibid., pp.253-60

Sambhaji through the mediation of the English.[1] Lately in 1741 Angres' vessels had been cruizing and taken several vessels between Mangalore and Mount Dilly.[2] Sambhaji, free from the risk of attack from the north, spread his power over Ratnagiri sub-division of Dabhol and over the greater part of Sawantwadi.[3]

Sambhaji Angre was down with illness for three months. He died on 12th January 1742.[4] Thereafter, Manaji went to Satara before Shahu Raja and requested him to make him Sarkhel as the eldest surviving member of Kanhoji's family. This claim was disputed by Sambhaji's half brother Tulaji. Shahu Maharaj declared that he would confer the Sarkhelship held previously by Sambhaji on any one of the Angres family who would caputred Anjanwel and Govalkot, the two important posts which even the Peshwa Bajirao couldnot caputre during the war of 1733 and which still remained as outposts of the Janjira State.[5] Tulaji at once undertook the campaign with the help of King Shahu and with great heroism captured Govalkot and Anjanvel on 25th January 1745 and immediately communicated the happy news to the Chhatrapati.[6]

After the death of Sambhaji Angre in January 1742,

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1. *Ibid*., pp.59-60.
2. *Fort St. George, Tellicherry consultations*, Nov.1741, p.47.
3. Dhabu, *op.cit*., *Samalochana*, p.85.
4. Rajwade, *M.I.S*., Vol.3, Ls.308, 345.
5. Rajwade, *M.I.s*., Vol.6, L.153.
6. Rajwade, *M.I.S*., Vol.2, p.101; Pub.Deptt.Diary 18-A of 1745, pp.41-46. King Shahu was highly gratified at this success and named the places Gopalgad (Anjanwel) and Govindgad (Gowalkot); But these names did not come into popular use, Sardesai, N.H.M., II, p.259.

Shahu Maharaj bestowed Sarkhelship on Tulaji Angre. In 1742, during the first year of his office, as Sarkhel, his men seized the Jupitar, one of the finest vessels of Europe, which La Bourdanais had despatched to Goa for provisions.[1] In November 1742, the Sidi of Janjira found that Tulaji's fleet and some English ships were locked up in a combat in which Tulaji's boats succeeded in carrying away two of his trading boats.[2] In December, the Bombay Gura's encountered Tulaji's Gheria squadron of 9 grabs and there was stiff fight between them for half an hour but, in the ensuing nightfall, Tulaji's fleet managed to get away without any loss.[3] In April 1743, Tulaji's gallivats attacked the English ketch Salamander, When Manaji found the English boat engaged, he pushed out in person with gallvats and chased his brother's fleet away.[4] The havoc of thirty years' war between the Angre and the English was noticed by both and they agreed to have a perpetual peace. But on receipt of Capt. Inchbird's report[5] the British thought of commenting the union between the English and the Peshwa to punish the Angre. The report states : "that the Marathas

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[1] Saletore, Indian Pirates, p.110.

[2] Banaji, Bombay and the Sidis, p.102.

[3] Pub. Deptt. Diary 15-C, dt.10 December 1742, p.633.

[4] Pub. Deptt. Diary 16-A/1743, p.134.

[5] Captain Inchbird was depted by the English to help Manaji against Sambhaji's intending attack on Kolaba. Pub. Deptt. Diary 13-A of 1740, pp.212-13; Captain Inchbird's report to the President, Pub. Deptt.Diary Ibid., pp.226-227.

(Peshwa) were too jealous of Sambhaji's power and so many hostilities had already past between them, that they were bent to reducing him and would attack him as soon as the proper season would allow of their entering upon the action and were very pressing to gain a declaration of the Company's intention." The Bombay Council decided to side with the Peshwa and assist him in any expedition against the Angre.[1] Tulaji, who succeeded Manaji was active and breave but haughty and altogether lacking in political foresight. He was considering himself as a servant of the crown and started defying the orders of the Peshwa. Tulaji, a courageous and daring seaman, followed a line of action dictated by his personal needs and selfish interest.

In November 1744, the Viceroy of Goa received numerous letters from the local people of Bassein to relieve them from the Maratha oppression. To achieve this, two Portuguese frigates with a Carvan of 21 ships were ordered to proceed to the North. The armada of the Angre attacked them. For six days the Portuguese and the Angre fought but with no result.[2] By a letter dated February 11, 1745 addressed to the Viceroy of Goa, the Angre of Kolaba showed his willingness to help the Portuguese if they wished to take back Karanja (Uran) and Bassein from the Peshwa. His reason was that proximity of the Peshwa was irksome to him.[3] This shows that Manaji's relations with the Peshwa steadily deteriorated.

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1. Pub.Dept. Diary, No. 13-B, pp. 305-306.
2. Parvate, *op.cit.*, p. 180.
3. *Ibid*, p. 181

Relation between Manaji and Shankaraji Pant Phadke were not friendly either. Manaji had captured a ship of certain merchant by name Nathas, in whom Shankaraji was interested. As an answer to this move Shankaraji captured a ship of Kharepatan possessing Manaji's permit. Manaji demanded its release through the Peshwa but shrewed Shankaraji explained to the Peshwa how it was a question of right rather than the more release of a ship. In 1744, Peshw's men took the fort of Bhairavgad belonging to Manaji. To retaliate, the latter despatched three gurabs and thirty galbats to Bassein to impede the Peshwa's armada.[1]

Angre and Savants :

For the subsistance of his army Tulaji attacked the Savants, took Bhagwantgad and Bhairavgad, crossed the Kudal river, defeated the Savants at Bamborde and compelled the Savants to cede two-fifth of the Salshi revenue.[2] The Political situation in the State of Sawantwadi was not favourable to the Wadi rulers to attack the Angres as they were without any friends from whom they could expect support. Their naval squadron at Karli river was burnt down by Ismail Khan, and the one in the creek of Terekhol was partly destroyed and partly carried away to Goa.[3] Even in this weakened condition, the Savants systematically struck

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1. Apte, op.cit., p.247, note.
2. Maharashtra State Gazetters, Ratnagiri, p.167.
3. Mhamai, The Sawants of Wadi and the Portuguese, p.67.

back and in 1745, the five districts were recovered.[1] Three years later in February 1748, again the Sawant attacked Govalkot, Anjanvel and the fort of Mudagad which was in the possession of Tulaji Angre. Thereupon, Tulaji attacked the fort of Bharatgad. This strategically important fort was on the southwest of the Kalvali creek on a hill commanding the Malwan village of Masura. While the attack was in force, the Sawants were negotiating with Tulaji Angre to desist from the attack. But Tulaji struck to his gun and continued his attack vigorously. Therefore, the Savants stepped up the attack and forced the Angre to evacuate the fort. Bharatgad and the districts between the Kudal and the Carner rivers were recovered and the third raid of Tulaji was successfully beaten off.[2] His attempts against the Chiefs of Vishalgad and Bavda met with a similar fate.[3] To keep alive his fleet he raided Malabar ports and prayed on merchant shipping. The Southern portion of the west coast was at this time controlled by Tulaji Angre who had his residence at Vijaydurg and the northern portion by Ramaji Mahadeo, the Peshwa's governor of Kalyan. Both had contracted bitter hatred towards each other during the last several years. The Peshwa did not deal with the Angre directly. He left this matter in the hands of Ramji Mahadeo. However Tulaji was

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1. Ratnagiri Gazetteers (Revised), p.168.
2. S.P.D. Vol.24, Ls.86, 101, 98, 103, 99, 110, 115, 30, 113, 41; Vol.34, L.34.
3. S.P.D., Vol.24, Ls.20, 25; Pant Pratinidhi Bakhar in Bharatwarsh, Vol.I, p.56; Shahu Roznishi, pp.225-229, and 236 and 240.

anxious to maintain friendly relations with the Peshwa[1] since he became Sarkhel in 1745. Tulaji Angre plundered every English vessel that came in his way. But no attack was made on him till the joint expedition of the Peshwa and the English in 1755.[2]

Tulaji's territories extended from Bombay to Malwan to the south, a sea port about 120 miles from it and they spread island near 76 miles. He had all ports on the western coast in his possession. He generally kept up an army of 30,000 sepoys and Topasses. His gunners and sea officers were mostly renegado Europeans; he had a large train of artillery, besides the cannons on his forts, ships and 12 elephants. The naval force of Tulaji Angre consisted of about 15 grabs which carried six and nine pounders and great number of men with small arms; five ketches, two ships of 40 guns and about 40 gallivats and other small crafts.[3] During 1751, Tarabai then bitterly opposing the Peshwa, instigated both the Portuguese and Tulaji Angre and promised the former the return of their territory of Bassein, if they would put down the Peshwa. It became the Peshwas' policy, therefore, in this difficult situation, to prevent an alliance of the Portuguese of Goa and the English of Bombay.[4] The Peshwa, for sometime, was trying his utmost

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1. S.P.D., Vol.24, Ls.46, 48.
2. Bendrey, Downfall of Angre's Navy, p.37.
3. Ibid., pp.37, 38.
4. Sardesai, N.H.M., II, p.357.

to gain the friendship of the English. When Tulaji came to know this, he deputed his emissary to the English of Bombay in October 1754, with a proposal of peace treaty betwenn them. The terms he offered were liberal enough to be acceptable. But because of Peshwas' overtures the English were not in a mood to accept them. They flately refused to recognise Angre's right to issue passes for their tradigg vessels, insisted on the restoration of all the ships seized by him and asked him to depute a man of status to talk about peace.[1] Finally the English turned down Tulaji Angre's proposal for peace.[2] The English of Bombay were the bitter enemies of the Angre; so also the Peshwa. But either of them alone could not defeat Angre. Therefore, the Peshwa's proposal of friendship was accepted by the English with the sole intention of self interest and with no more love for the Peshwa than for Tulaji. Ramji Mahadeo, Peshwa's subedar of Salsette became instrument in concluding the agreement for making joint assault on Angre's strongholds. All the doubts raised by on behalf of the Peshwa Ramaji Mahadeo had talks with the Bombay Governor Bourchéer and agreed to engage the services of the Bombay navy for putting down Tulaji Angre on the following terms.[3] :

(1) All the marine shall be immediately under the command of the English, and the management of all affairs, both by sea and land carried on by the approbation of both parties.

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1. Pub. Deptt. Diary, Vol.27, (1754), pp.309-315.
2. *Ibid.*, Vol.28-I of 1755, p.30.
3. Secret and Political Deptt. Diary, Vol.I, pp.4-5; Sardesai, N.H.M., II, pp.358-59.

(2) All Vessels, whatever that may be taken from Tulaji, shall be equally divided between the English and Marathas, except the "Restoration" which is to be the sole property of the English.

(3) Bankot and (fort) Himattgar with the river belonging thereto, and with five villages to the southward of the said river, to be delivered to the English as the Hon'ble Company's property for ever, and the Marathas not to levy any additional inland duties.

(4) The English engage to keep the sea and prevent Angria's fleet from throwing succours into any place that may be attacked, but at this season only Suvarndurg, Anjanvel and Zoy Vizay.

(5) All ammunition, guns and other stores that may be taken in the several forts in Angria's territories to belong entirely to the Marathas.

(6) If Manaji's territories are joinly attacked, the fort of Candery, with the harbour, to be delivered into the Hon'ble Comapy with the Village Ravansea, Ramjaykar, Sarali, Sharny, Mandavem, Kolgaon, Donbarem kihim and Avas.

(7) Any other articles that may be necessary tobe agreed upon to be settled between the Governor and Nana Pandit Pradhan.

These terms were finalised on 19th March 1755.

The above mentioned agreement was drawn in September 1755 and confirmed in March 1756. In October 1755, Admiral Watson came to Bombay from the Coromandel coast, with his squadron, and got ready to act against Angre. While the preparations were going on for the concerned expedition, the admiral sent his first Leiutenent, Sir William Hewett, in an armed Vessel, to sound the harbour of Vijaydurga and make proper observations. This was successfully done. The Angre, who observed the ship hovering about the harbour for several days had ordered out some vessels to attack it but Sir William returned safe to Bombay.[1]

The Peshwa also deputed Samsherbahadar to Ratanagiri and asked the English to send the fleet there to help him.[2] Samsherbahadar and Dinkar Pant reached Devrukh with their force and from there they were advancing towards Suvarnadurg.[3]

Ramaji Mahadeo marched against Tulaji Angre and went to Sasti. In the meantime, the Sidis from Surat came down heavily on Manaji Angre. They laid siege to Manaji's fort at Alibag. Ramji Mahadeo went to Manaji's help with the English force. The battle ensued in which the Sidi's 1500 men were killed along with two sardars. The Sidi was pushed to Underi. Thereafter, all Maratha naval ships and the Warships of the English marched towards Vijaydurg,[4] (20 March 1755).

The East India Company appointed commodore James,the commander-in-chief of the company' marine force in India to

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1. Bendrey, op.cit., pp.38-39.
2. S.P.D.D., Vol.I, dated 12 April 1755, p.14.
3. Ibid., pp.6-7.
4. Sardesai, op.cit., Vol.II, p.360.

lead the expedition against the Angre with the help of Maratha fleet.[1] He sailed on the 22nd of March in the ship "Protector" containing forty four guns. He was joined by the Maratha fleet consisting of seven grabs and sixty gallivats and having on board 10,000 land forces at Chaul. Departing from them they anchored again fifteen miles to the North of Suvarndurg. Here Ramaji Pant disembarked with the troops in order to cover the rest of the way by land route.[2] On request of the Government of Bombay, the Madras authorities sent troops under captain Clive and naval force under admiral Watson to join the operation.[3]

Ramaji Pant sent from Suvarnadurg land forces to capture Bankot and Himatgad.[4] He also attacked and carried the forts of Kanakdurg, Fategad and Gova which are inside Suvarnadurg.[5]

All the forces now aimed at capturing Gheria on 7th April, the English fleet began to fire upon the Angre's fleet from the ships and share. "The Angre's men also exerted themselves with uncommon industry, flinging over board all their lumber to lighten their vessels, not only crowding all the sails they could bend, but also hanging up their

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1. Forrest, Maratha series, Vol.I, pp.89-90; Nairne, op.cit., p.90.
2. Ibid.
3. Forrest, op.cit., pp.102-3.
4. S & P.D.D.; Vol.I, of 1755, p.8.
5. Ibid., p.14.

garments, and even their turbans, to catch every breath of air.[1] On 7th April 1755 commodore James began to fire upon Angre from the ships and shore and landed a number of people under the cover of it opposite to the gate of the fort. At half past twelve they were out and broke open the gate of the fort and entered without much opposition. Thus the British completed their Victory.[2] The British entered fort Gova without resistance. They found 44 guns in it. In the other two forts, Viz. Fategad and Kanakdurg, they found 20 guns each and in Suvarnadurg they found about 50 guns. They burnt all the houses in the fort and devastated. Suvarnadurg is built on an island with 2½ fathoms water all round.[3] The Peshwas' landforces marched to take Bankot and Himatgad which they occupied in April 1755.[4]

Ramaji Mahadeo, the Peshwa's subhedar reacherously captured the forts of Suvarndurg, Bankot, Palgad and Rasalgad. Within eight days, the Peshwa's general captured eight forts belonging to Angre. Angre's men were brifed. So there was no resistence from Angre's side. Ramchandra Pant intended to capture Vijaydurg in order to bring an end of Angres' kingdom.[5]

As already stated Samsher Bahadur and Dinkar Mahadeo were deputed by the Peshwa on the Konkan campaign. From

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1. Ibid., Letter from Commodore James to the President and council dated 12 April 1755.
2. Secret & Pol Deptt., Vol.I, Dated 12 April 1755, p.7.
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid.
5. Phalke, Shinde Shahicha Itihasachi Sadhane, Vol.3, Ls. 160, 162.

Poona they marched through Ambaghat and laid siege to Ratnagiri. The Peshwa instructed the English to help Samsher Bahadur in capturing Ratnagiri. But the English refused the help in the rainy season.[1]

However, after rainy season Commodore James was instructed to lay off large British fleet in that fort to prevent the Angre throwing in succour.[2] In the meantime the Peshwa's troops captured Anjanvel and Govalkot on the 14th of January 1756.[3] Fort Ratnagiri and other places belonging to Angre were captured on 18th February 1756.[4]

On 6 February 1756 a meeting of the council of Land and Sea officers was held in which several matters were settled particularly the shares of the prize money upon a presumption of success.[5] On the sameday, the land forces under the command of colonel Clive and the naval force under Admiral Watson started from Bombay to join the Maratha fleet in a creek to the northword of Gheria (Vijaydurg).[6]

The admiral arrive before Vijaydurg on 11th February. The firing started on the 12th. For about half an hour there was brisk firing from the fort but the incessant fire from the ships destroyed the houses in the fort. At 4 in the afternoon of the sameday, a chance shot falling on one of

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1. S.P.D., Vol.24, Ls.91, 124-126.
2. Secret and Political Deptt. Diary, Vol.I, pp.19-21.
3. S.P.D., Vol.24, Ls. 117-119.
4. Ibid., Ls.121, 160.
5. Bendrey, Downfall of Angre's Navy, p.39; Forrest, Maratha series, Vol.I, p.108.

Angre's ship set fire to his entire fleet and in a short time all the seventy ships belonging to Angre were burnt to ashes.[1] The fort was surrendered and the British soldiers took possession of it on the 3rd March 1756. The Marathas who were attempting to take possession of it were prevented by Captain Forbes by drawing his sword with a threat to cut the head of those who would advance a step further.[2] So captain Forbes was allowed to take possession of the fort. Forbes found in the fort 250 guns ten lakhs of rupees in cash, six brass mortars and about 4 thousand pound worth goods and valuables.[3]

Tulaji surrendered to the Marathas. He had been seeking peace terms with the Peshwa which were not even considered. The President was glad to hear that Tulaji's whole fleet was destroyed. He was insisting on Watson to bring Tulaji to Bombay as Captive.[4] But the Marathas refused as they had no orders from the Peshwa to that effect. The British similarly refused to handover the fort to the Marathas.[5] This was reported to the Peshwa in May 1756.[6] 6

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1. Secret and Political Deptt. Diary, Vol.2, pp.34-36; For Admiral Watson's report which gives minue details of the capture of fort Gheria, see Bendre, op.cit., pp.42-43.
2. Bendrey, op.cit., p.40.
3. Ibid., p.42; Nairne, Konkan, p.94; S.P.D., Vol.24, Ls. 162-179.
4. Pub.Deptt.Diary, 29-A, p.93; Forrest, Maratha series, Vol.I, p.108.
5. Secret and Political Deptt.Diary, No.2, pp.39-40.
6. S.P.D., Vol.24, L.173.

There upon the Peshwa got annoyed with the English and wrote a strong letter asking them to depute a person to Poona to settle everything.[1] Accordingly, the British deputed a person and they came to an agreement on 12th October 1756,[2] by which Vijaydurg was handover to the Marathas, in lieu of Bankot and Ten villages to be ceded to the British. On receipt of possession of Vijaydurg from the British, the province of Vijaydurg was placed under the admirality of Anandrao Dhulap and Suvarndurg in charge of Ramji Mahadeo.[3]

When the English were asked to give share in the booty from Gheria, they said that the booty was taken away by His Majesty's men on whom the East India Company had no control.[4] Tulaji Angre's family was taken in the fort and he himself was sent as a prisoner to the fort Rajmachi near Raigad and kept in confinement in various forts till his death in 1786 A.D.[5]

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1. Secret and Political Deptt.Diary, No.2, pp.114-115.
2. Ibid., pp.116-118; Pub.Deptt.Diary, Vol.29-B, pp.554-62.
3. Apte, *op.cit.*, p.249.
4. Pub.Deptt.Diary, Vol.29-B, pp.554-62.
   The Instructions given to Messrs Thomas by Feld and John Spencer, who were deputed to Pune to negotiate with the Peshwa, are found in detail in this Diary.
5. Sardesai, *Marathi Riyasat*, Vol.6, p.184.

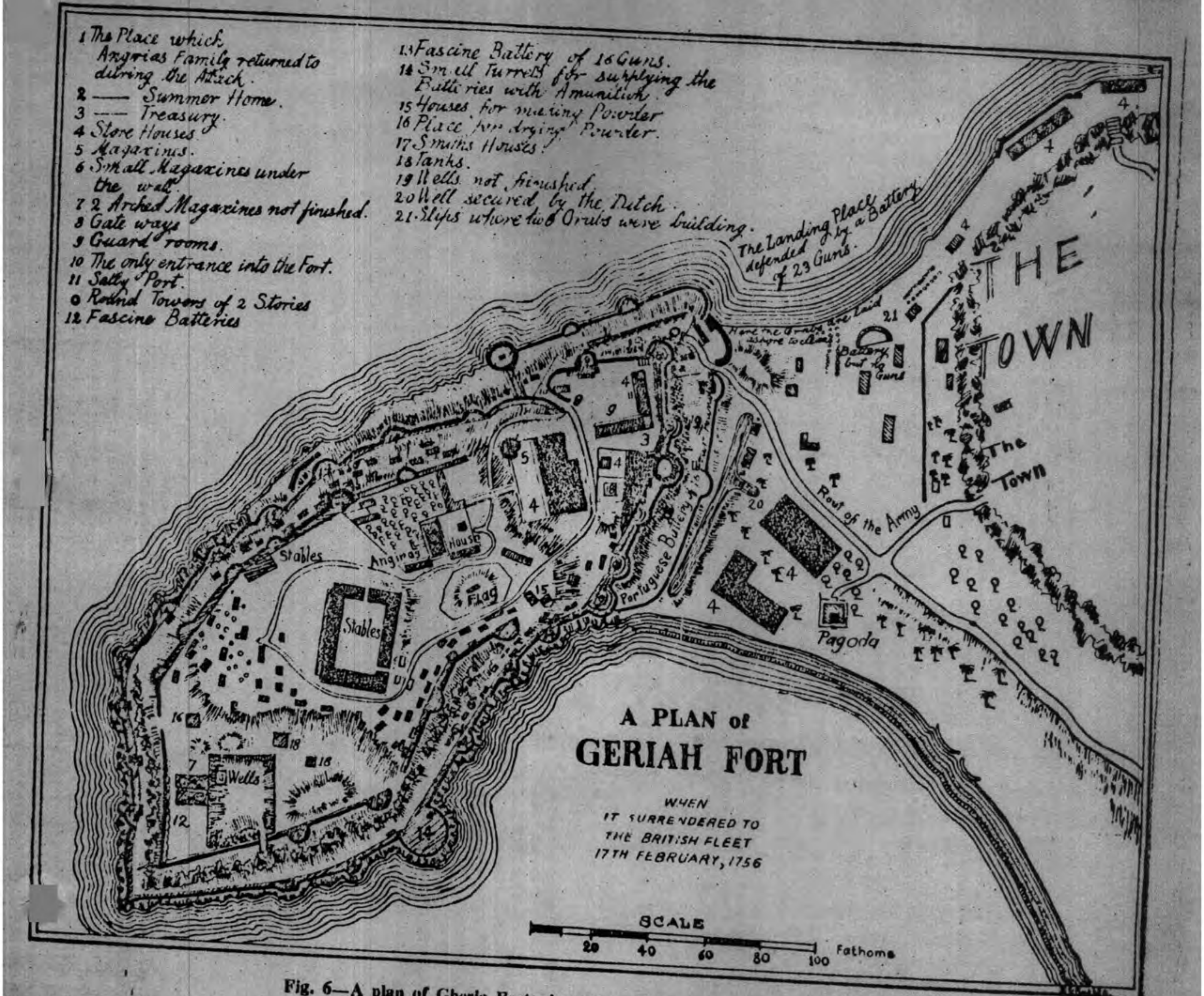
1 The Place which Angrias Family returned to during the Attack.
2 —— Summer Home.
3 —— Treasury.
4 Store Houses.
5 Magazines.
6 Small Magazines under the wall.
7 2 Arched Magazines not finished.
8 Gate ways
9 Guard rooms.
10 The only entrance into the Fort.
11 Sally Port.
o Round Towers of 2 Stories
12 Fascine Batteries
13 Fascine Battery of 16 Guns.
14 Small Turrets for supplying the Batteries with Amunition.
15 Houses for making Powder
16 Place for drying Powder.
17 Smiths Houses.
18 Tanks.
19 Wells not finished.
20 Well secured by the Dutch.
21 Slips where two Grabs were building.
The Landing Place defended by a Battery of 23 Guns.
THE TOWN
The Town
Rout of the Army
Portuguese Battery
Pagoda
Stables
Stables
Angria's House
Flag
Wells
A PLAN of
GERIAH FORT
WHEN
IT SURRENDERED TO
THE BRITISH FLEET
17TH FEBRUARY, 1756
SCALE
20
40
60
80
100
Fathoms

Fig. 6—A plan of Gheria Fort when it surrendered to the British Fleet in 1756

CHAPTER VII

CONTEST FOR THE HEGEMONY OF KONKAN BETWEEN THE MARATHAS AND THE EAST INDIA COMPANY (1756 to 1796)

Marathas-Sidi conflict :

After Tulaji had been removed, the Peshwa turned his attention to Janjira and Surat and requested the British help for the purpose in 1758. But the British did not respond to the Peshwa. They took measures against Sidi's encroachments. In 1757 when Manaji Angre was in the Deccan helping the Peshwa against the Nizam, his territory was invaded and plundered by the Sidis.[1] On his return Manaji cleared out the Sidi's encroachment and attacked Danda-Rajapuri.[2] Manaji also attacked Underi and found there Brahmins and their wives from the villages of Saswane, Awas, Satiranje and Bhal as captives. They were released by Manaji.[3] The Marathas captured Underi from the Sidis in February 1759 and appointed Naro Trimbak Soman as Killedar.[4]

Manaji died on 13th September 1758.[5] He was succeeded by his eldest son Raghuji in 1759.[6] On capturing the island of Underi near Khanderi, it was named Jayadurg. The fort of Kausa or Padmadurg was also captured on 28th January 1760 with the help of Raghuji.[7]

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1. Pub. Deptt.Diary, No.31-I of 1758, p.182.
2. Ibid., pp.336-37.
3. Rajwade, M.I.S., Vol.3, p.516.
4. Ibid., p.517.
5. Sec.Pol.Deptt., Vol.24, p.150.
6. Rajwade, M.I.S., Vol.2, p.150.
7. Sec.Pol.Deptt., Vol.24, L.257.

At the same time the Marathas had laid siege to the fort of Janjira. But siege could not be continued vigorously as the Maratha forces had to march to the north to strike against Ahmed Shah Abdali. The Marathas suffered heavy loss at Panipat. Grief striken Peshwa, Balaji Bajirao died on 23rd June 1761. This event gave the sidis the necessary respite to recover their position. The English mediated between the Marathas and the Sidis and proposed that the Marathas should restore the Fort of Undheri to the Sidis. In a letter dated 9th October, 1761, Peshwa Madhavrao refused to comply with the suggestion.[1] In the battle that ensued between the Sidis and the Marathas, the English joined the Sidis and hoisted British flag at Janjira.[2] The Sidi himself had explained how he was reduced to the precarious position by the Marathas, in the following letter addressed to the English by the Sidi on 14th September 1761.

"The Marathas attacked me again these three years ...... to the great ruin of us and their own people having plundered us everything. The country I was mending is also ruined, now to see the country as before it will take 15 years. Before I can see it in that manner in case it is not invaded. They cut off all the gardens, carried away about 60 guns from Conkery, as also all manner of effects belonging to the Sarkar

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1. Pub. Deptt. Diary, No.39, pp.598-99.
2. Nairne, Konkan, p.98.

for 15 years. So I know not what is to be done about it. They owe me my share of 18 years of produce of the country".[1] The Sidis had renewed their attack on Maratha territory, although the English President had warned the Sidis against committing atrocities on the Marathas.[2]

On capturing the fort of Undheri by the Marathas the English proposed a settlement of the dispute between the Marathas and the Sidi Ibrahim Khan. President Crommelin proposed that the Marathas should restore the fort of Undheri to the Sidis. Peshwa Madhavrao declined to comply with the suggestion.[3] The Sidis did not get dettered. They renewed their activities of attacking the Maratha territory. The English President did not like the depredations committed by the Sidi's by attacking their country, murdering and plundering their subjects. The Sidi also captured one of the Maratha gallivats.[4] Thereupon, the Marathas seized one of the Sidis' gallivats. This retaliation was brought to the notice of the Sidis by the President.[5] While the matters stood thus, Sidi Ibrahim died on 15th September 1762 and Sidi Yakut succeeded on 3rd October 1762.[6] Thereafter, the Sidis' outrages on the Maratha territory continued. On 17th July 1762[7] and 3rd August

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1. Pub.Deptt.Diary, No.37, pp.608-09.
2. Ibid., No.39, pp.735-36.
3. Ibid., pp.573-74.
4. Ibid., pp.608-09.
5. Ibid.
6. Avalaskar, Angrekalin Ashtagar, L.251.
7. Ibid., L.253.

August 1763[1] the Sidis attacked a few villages and burnt and looted them. They also ravaged the territory in the vicinity of Raigad. So the Peshwa deputed Shankaraji Keshav Phadke to attack the territory of the Sidis and put an end to their depredations.[2] During the next three years attacks and counterattacks by both the parties on each others' territory continued. During 1766-67 Peshwa Madhavrao sent certain proposals to the Sidis for a settlement.[3] It seems that these attempts failed and the war had to be renewed. The English as usual assisted Sidi Yakut and sent ships to his help. They feared that if Abdul Rahim, the claimant for the Sidi's Masnad who was supported by the Marathas was successful, the Marathas would soon get thepossession of Janjira.[4]

The English saw twentyfive Maratha gallivats cruizing off Consa[5] fort. Therefore, the English tried to dissuade Sidi Abdul Rahim from siding with the Marathas. The aim of the English was to prevail upon Sidi Abdul Rahim to cometo terms with Sidi Yakut.[6] Abdul Rahim refused to yield.[7] Thereupon, Captain John Hopkin attacked Abdul Rahim on 22nd November 1767.[7] Abdul Rahim made such a vigorous counter attack that the English ran away.[8] To retrieve their position, the English

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1. Avalaskar, Angrekalin Ashtagar, L.249.
2.
3. Vad, Madhavrao Peshwa Roznishi, Vol.I, No.229.
4. Pub.D.D., No.49, p.569.
5. Ibid.
6. Ibid., pp.644-45.
7. Ibid., pp.652-53.
8. Ibid., p.664.

President sent reinforcement with the Ship 'Worcester' to the Janjira with Major John Gouin.[1] On 1st December 1767, the English launched a vigorous attack and defeated Sidi Abdul Rahim,[2] who fled and sought protection in the Maratha territory.[3] On behalf of Sidi Abdul Rahim, the Maratha general approached the English President for a settlement.[4] The English, therefore, made an attempt to bring settlement between Sidi Yakut and Sidi Abdul Rahim. But the settlement could not be arrived at as neither party was ready to give in.[5] Thus, a stalemate continued thereafter for a year and a half.

In December 1769, Raghuji Angre with his fleet and with the help of the Peshwa's forces attacked Madgad and captured it[6] and handed over it to Abdul Rahim on 10th December 1769.[7] On hearing this, Sidi Yakut besieged Madgad.[8] The Peshwa sent reinforcement to relieve Madgad.[9] Thereafter Sidi Yakut raised the siege. Peshwa Madhavrao protested to the English for helping the Sidi against the Marathas pointing out that the Marathas did not allow the Dutch to establish a factory at Rajapur because of the English opposition to it. The President

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1. Pub.D.D., No.49, pp.664-65.
2. Ibid., pp.687-88.
3. Ibid., pp.702-03.
4. Ibid., pp.733-34.
5. Ibid.
6.

said that as long as Salsette would remain with the Marathas the English had to depend for provisions on the Sidi's territory and therefore to protect them.[1] Thereafter, the Peshwa decided to attack Sidi Yakut. The Maratha force in Konkan was joined by Sidi Abdul Ibrahim.[2] The skirmishes between the Maratha force and the Sidis took place at three places at different dates. Neither side gained anything. Hence both the sides came to a settlement on 26 February 1772.[3] It was agreed that out of 11 mahals, 5½ were to belong to the Peshwa and 5½ to the Sidis and that each should manage his own portion as before.[4] Sidi Yakut and Sidi Rahim had also settled their differences by which it was agreed that Sidi Abdul Rahim should manage the Subha of Rajapuri.[5] But in July 1772 Sidi Abdul Rahim staged a successful coup and himself ascended the Masnad on 29th July 1772.[6] Mostyn arrived at Poona in October 1772, voiced his concern over the coup as he did not like Sidi Abdul Rahim's action in seizing the Masnad without consulting the English. He told the Poona Government on 17 October 1772, that during the war with the Sidis by the Marathas, the English would stand by the Sidis and preserve Janjira for them.[7] In 1777 St. Lubin, the envoy of the King of France, arrived at the Court of the Peshwa for

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1. Vad, op.cit., No.237.
2. Ibid.
3. Vad, Mawajee & Parasnis, Treaties, Agreements and Sanads, p.118.
4. Vad, op.cit., No.241.
5. Avalaskar, op.cit., No.362.
6. Ibid., No.366.
7. Gense & Banaji, The Third English Embassay to Poona Comprising Mostyn's Diary, pp.12-13.

the purpose of drawing up an agreement with the Marathas for joint action against the English[1] and the Sidis[2] of Janjira. But it seems that the French did not act according to an agreement.

The Sidis continued their policy of harassing the Marathas. In 1781-82 the Sidis looted the neighbouring area. The Marathas attacked the Sidi's outpost at Nadvipurar and brought the brothers of the Thanedar as prisoners to Raigad.[3] These prisoners were later on released.[4] Sidi Abdul Rahim and Sidi Yakut died in the year 1784. So Sidi Johar, the commandant of Janjira Fort seized the Chieftainship.[5] So Balu Mian, the younger brother and the successor of Sidi Abdul Rahim, approached the English for protection. But the English remained neutral in this matter.[6] Thereafter, Balu Mian had approached the Marathas for help and protection which was assured by the Poona Government.[7]

Balu Mian had approached the Marathas for help and protection which was assured by the Poona Government. This matter was brought to the notice by the Fort Victoria Resident to Bombay Company. Thereupon, the Company decided to give asylum to Sidi Zamrud in British territory.[8] The commercial

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1. Hatalkar, Relations between the French & the Marathas, pp.186-88.
2. Ibid.
3. Lekh Sangrah Vol.7, pp.3556-58.
4. Ibid.
5. Bombay Gazetteer, Vol.XI (Kolaba) p.448.
6. Pub.D.D., No.32, pp.502-516.
7. Ibid., No.33, pp.46-49.
8. Sec.& Pol.Deptt.Diary No.39, pp.214-216.

activities alone brought the English to take an active part in the doings of the Sidis, The Sidis were eliminated as a political power by the Marathas and the English at the end of 18th Century. So their activities do not occupy a very large space in the records.

British offensive in Konkan

After the disaster of Panipat, the way in which Peshwa Madhavrao I consolidated his power created a fear in the minds of the English. In case the Marathas joined Haider Ali and the Nizam against their protege, the Nawab of Karnatak, their own position on the Coromandal coast was likely to be exposed to serious danger.[1] In order not to allow such an alliance to take shape, Mostyn was sent to Poona in 1769 as an envoy by the Bombay Government for fomenting the domestic dissentions in the Maratha State.[2] That would keep the Marathas entangled among themselves and this would give an opportunity to the English to achieve their objective of acquiring Salsette and other places on the Bombay coast. Soon Raghunathrao gave this opportunity by seeking the English help.

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1. Forrest, Selections, Maratha Series, Vol. I, p.142.
2. Grant Duff, History of the Mahrattas, Vol. I, p.658.

After Raghunathrao was proclaimed Peshwa, he issued instructions to the officer to carry out his instructions.[1] The officers in the Peshwa's administration adjusted accordingly and started obeying instructions of the new Peshwa Raghunathrao. But some of the officers commanding various forts in the Konkan had misgiving. They did not return to Poona when Raghunathrao issued orders to them to return to the city promptly. The suggestion that some of those incharge of the forts in Konkan were not well disposed towards Raghunathrao is noted in Mostyn's diary. on 17 September 1773 as follows:

" A thousand Horse are ordered into the Konkan to keep a watch on the officers commanding in different forts, of whose faith Ragobah is doubtful".[3] But for the despatch of troops in Konkan the Maratha contemporary sources give an entirely different reason. Shivaji Balaji, Karbhari of Raghunathrao, wrote to Wamanrao Patwardhan on 25th September 1773, that "Malba Panse was being sent down the Ghats towards Bassein and environs at the head of some troops and Gardis and with adquate equipment because the English appear to have decided to create trouble in the area as advised by Mostyn.[4] Raghunathrao also conveyed his desire to Monstyn through Ramji Chitnis on 10th September 1773 that he should withdraw from Poona.[5] In the meantime, Raghunathrao

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1. Khare, 'Aitihasik Lekh Sangraha, Vol.IV, No.1257, p.1990.
2. Gense & Banaji, The Third English Embassy to Poona, p.203.
3. Ibid., p.223.
4. Khare, op.cit., Vol.V, No.1269, 2058.
5. Genese & Banaji, op.cit., p.220.

went away from Poona on Karnatak expedition. In his absence, Gangabai, wife of the assassinated Narayanrao, gave birth to a son. The ministrial pary formed a government at Poona in the name of the newly-born child on 40th day of his birth. He was named as Sawai Madhavrao Peshwa and a Council of Ministers was appointed to look after Maratha administration. In the first week of February 1774, Trimbakrao Pethe was asked to march on Raghunathrao at Sangola. The two forces met at Kasegaon on 27th March 1774. In the battle that ensued, Raghunathrao defeated Trimbakrao Pethe. Trimbakrao was severaly wounded in the battle and was taken prisoner. He soon succumbed to the injuries.[1] Raghunathrao, however, was unable to capitalize on this success. With his extreme scarcity of money, he could not pursue warfare vigorously.[2] Therefore, he turned to the English at Bombay for monetary help through Mostyn, the English Resident at Poona. Mostyn conveyed Raghunathrao's proposal to the President of the English council at Bombay on April 10, 1774. Raghunathrao demanded men and money from the English and in return promised to cede the lands along the sea coast and the islands near Bombay.[3] The Bombay Council turned down the proposal and advised Mostyn accordingly. In December 1774, Raghunathrao was at Kasarbari in Gujarat. He was persued by the Ministerial force. He, therefore, came near Surat in January 1775 and despatched his agent Navaratan to the Chief of Surat establishment of the English with the proposal. Gambier, the English Chief at Surat, forwarded the proposal to Bombay on 6th September 1774.[1] In the proposal Raghunathrao had mentioned that the English should take him to Poona with sufficient assistance of the force and in return he would make very considerable grants to the Company and enter into any terms of friendship and alliance they could choose. On deliberating on it, the English President and the Council at Bombay resolved to assist Raghunathrao with men and money provided that Raghunathrao (a) made over to the English the Maratha revenues from the town of Surat and the Parganas of Broach. (b) ceded to the Company the Island of Salsette and Bassein along with small Islands adjacent to it and two other conditions.[2] These conditions were carried by Navaratan to Raghunathrao who wasccamping at Burhanpur. Raghunathrao agreed to accept the terms of the English except" to give up Salsette and Bassein, alleging that he considered and valued those countries more than any other. As the islands near Bombay, not knowing their names, he says he cannot return any answer"[3] On 17th November 1774, Gambier informed Raghunathrao that the English at Bombay were ready to give him assistance, but insisted on having Salsette and Bassein as its price and that the English forces would join him within a fortnight of the settlement of the terms. Gambier warned Raghunathrao that the English would not agree to assist him unless he agreed to give them Salsette and Bassein and to settle on them appropriate revenues for the fort of Surat.[1] Raghunathrao informed Gambier that he was unwilling to part with Salsette, and Bassein, though anxious to conclude a treaty.[2]

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[1] Khare, op.cit., No.1349, pp.2135-2137; S. Sec.Pol.D., Vol.V, L.43.

[2] Genese & Banaji, op.cit., pp.348-349.

[3] Ibid., pp.343-344.

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[1] S.& P.D.D., Vol.15, pp.118-121.

[2] Ibid., pp.114-115.

[3] Ibid., p.128.

Attack on Salsette - December 1774.

While the negotiations were going on with Raghunathrao, the English planned an attack on Salsette. Therefore, Mostyn was recalled to Bombay and the English decided on 6th December 1774 to attack Salsette which was a part of the Maratha territory. Gordon was given the command of the attacking force. On 13th December, the English force reached the neighbourhood of Salsette by land. The remainder of the Military force was despatched by sea.[3] The Marathas had a suspicion of these evil designs of the English. Therefore, they had kept their navy in a state of preparedness.[4] They had asked for more provision from Bassein in July 1774.[5] They speeded up their preparations against the English in November.[6]

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1. op.cit., pp.144-147.
2. Diary No.16, pp.3-4.
3. Sec.& Pol.D.D., Dec.12, 1774.
4. Sec.Pol.D., Vol.35, L.4.
5. Ibid., L.11.
6. Ibid., Ls.15 & 16.

The Marathas came to know Bombay's decision to invade Salsette immediately.[1] They also suspected the support of the Sidi to English in this endeavour.[2] The Marathas were short of provisions at Salsette. Therefore, the only way to distract the English was an attack on their fleet.[3] But the Marathas were facing difficulties from all sides. Their fleet was long way off and even land re-inforcements were too slow in arriving. The English had, in the meantime, received reinforcements from Surat.[4] They thought that to wait for the arrival of reinforcements was likely to be ruineous.[5] The English were furious. The fire from the English batteries demolished a part of the walls and silenced the Maratha guns.[6] Several breaches were effected in the fort walls by the enemy's guns by 25th December 1774.[7] Financial difficulties further complicated the problem of defence.[8] The Marathas were helpless.[9] On the 28th the fort was made to capitulate. On the 30th December the fort of Karanja was also captured by the English.[10]

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[1] op.cit., L.17.
[2] Ibid., L.21.
[3] Ibid., Vol.35, L.22.
[4] Ibid., L.25.
[5] Ibid., L.46.
[6] Ibid., L.54.
[7] Ibid., L.97.
[8] Ibid., L.107.
[9] Ibid., L.121.
[10] Ibid., L.122.

Thus the Council at Bombay took possession of the island by force and occupied it on 28th December 1774, on the pretext that a large Portuguese force was coming over from European to recover the lost Portuguese possession in India.[1] This forceful occupation of islands on the Bombay coast was a surprise to Raghunathrao as well as his opponents, the Ministeriatists. The Poona Ministers sought the help of the French to expel the English from Salsette. At the beginning of 1775 they deputed an emissary to meet the French Counsul at Surat, M.Anquetol de Briancourt, wtth an offer to cede one post on the Maratha coast that the French may themselves select in in return for supply of 200 soldiers to check the ambitious designs of the English. They also sent envoys to the Chief of the French settlement at Mahe with letters to the King of France and his ministers. The Poona administration offered to the French all the English establishment on the Maratha coast in return for assistance in war with the English as also a payment for thirty to forty lakhs of rupees as expenses of the French troops fighting on their side against the English. The proposal was treated with the greatest secrecy and forwarded to France with an officer. It did not materialise as it was not by the Poona Ministers.[2] In the meantime, Raghunathrao sought English assistance without preconditions.

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1. Hatalkar, op.cit., p.179.
2. Ibid., pp.179-181.

He gave up his unwillingness to cede Salsette and Bassein and other territories desired by the English and agreed to all other English conditions, virtually signing on the dotted line as he thought that the English would be the only source of assistance available to him. He reached Surat on 3rd March 1775, and met Keating the same day.[1] Four days later, he appended his signature tothe treaty drafted by the English.[2]

Under this treaty of Surat, Raghunathrao ceded to the English from the date of his signature the following territory in Konkan : Bassein and its forts, the island of Salsette, Karanja, Kanheri, Elephanta and Hog. The treaty also provided that Raghunathrao would protect the interest of the English while reaching the settlement with the Poona Ministers.[3] Due to intervention of the Supreme authority at London, the cease-fire was ordered. Thereupon, Raghunathrao's claim to Peshwaship remained to be accepted by the English. Raghunathrao again contacted the English and proposed a new treaty with them. He explained his proposal to Keating on 23 January 1776 and this was conveyed to the Bombay Government the next day. In addition to all that was made over under the Treaty of Surat, Raghunathrao offered to the English all the Peshwa territory in Konkan, except the fort of Gherriah, known as

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1. Sec. & Pol.D.D., No.16, pp.92-93.
2. *Ibid.*, pp.107-109.
3. *Ibid.*

Vijaydurg; all the passes from Konkan to the Maratha dominions on the Deccan plateau; in addition to other conditions which were not applicable to the Konkan, Raghunathrao promised to make available free of charge 6,000 horse and all the Maratha fleet at Gheria in the event of the English being attacked by any power.[1] Bombay Government was almost overwhelmed by the offer, but the offer of the territory in Konkan was not found acceptable to the Supreme Government because they mentioned that "it would extend over possessions to a distance not warranted by the spirit of the Company's order".[2] However, the Governor-General agreed to give assistance of their arms to reinstate him in the seat of his Government at Poona. In the meanwhile, Col. Upton, on behalf of the East India Company, had signed at Purander a peace treaty on March, 1776 with the Poona Ministers. All the territories ceded by Raghunathrao to the English Company were restored to the Marathas except Salsette and the small islands around it. The Governor-General and Council had decided not to relinquish the islands of Salsette, Karanja, Elephanta and Hog. This was recorded on May 22, 1776, as an aditional clause of the treaty.[3] The treaty of Purandar accomplished by Upton under the direction of Governor General at Calcutta was not liked by the Governor of

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[1] Sec. & Pol.D.D., No.16, pp.403-411.

[2] Ibid.

[3] Forrest, Selections from the State Papers, Bombay: Maratha Series, Vol.I, ppp 283-284.

Bombay. He appealed to the Supreme Government to cancel the treaty of Purandar and allow Bombay to give asylum to Raghunathrao in the English territory.[1] Upton pointed out to Bombay Government that the English were obliged under the treaty to cease all aid and assistance to Raghunathrao, if he did not go to reside at Kopergaon.[2] About this time Raghunathrao received intelligence from his Vakeel at Calcutta that the King of England had upheld his cause and written to the Governor-General of India to support it. But seeing that the English at Bombay did not make any move according to his wish to support him, he sought the help of the Portuguese at Daman.[3] In March 1776, Jose Sanches de Brito, the Chief of the Portuguese navy, had sailed into Surat and Raghunathrao approached him with a request to take him to Goa, the Portuguese capital in India. The admiral declined to oblige Raghunathrao.[4] Raghunathrao's men met the Portuguese Governor of Daman and informed him of Raghunathrao's desire to come to Daman for men and ammunation from the Portuguese to help him to march toPoona and put down the ministerial party and in return Raghunathrao promised to cede to the Portuguese Bassein and other territories which the Portuguese formerly owned and also the territories on the northern coast that the

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1. Sec. & Pol.D.D., No.17, pp.268-270.
2. *Ibid.*, pp.258-259.
3. Khobrekar, *Gujaratetil Marathi Rajwat*, p. 62.
4. *Ibid.*

Marathas had taken away from the Portuguese. The Portuguese however, were in no mood to go beyond granting him permission to stay with his troops in the vicinity of their fort at Daman.[1] The news of Raghunathrao's movement towards Daman reached Poona very quickly. Nana Phadnis asked the Portuguese Vakil in Poona, Narayanrao Shenavi Dhume, to write to the Governor of Daman for not entertaining Raghunathrao on August 26, 1776 so Dhume on 26 August 1776 wrote to the Daman Governor requesting him not to extend any help to Raghunathrao in view of the friendship between the Portuguese and the Poona Government. He added that the Poona Government was prepared to pay damages for the "Santan", an armed vessels captured by Dhulap, Maratha Naval Commander, Rs.66,454 and give timber worth three thousand rupees,[2] besides territory yielding a revenue of twelve thousand rupees.[3]

While Raghunathrao was in the vicinity of Daman, the ministerial army under the command of Ganesh Vishwanath and Bhivrao Panse approached Raghunathrao. Raghunathrao, therefore, moved to Tarapur from Daman and then fled to Bombay by the

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1. Pissurlencar, "Some unknown dealings between Raghoba and the Portuguese", I.H.R.C.P., pp.127-130.
   Rajwade, M.I.S., Vol.12, No.191, pp.127-128.

2. This was a compensation offered by the Maratha Government to the Portuguese for their vessels captured by Dhulap and goods confiscated.

3. Khobrekar, op.cit., p. 67. This was a Nagar Haveli Jagir to the Portuguese.

end of October 1776.[1] He reached Bombay on November 1, 1776 and the Governor settled on him an allowance of ten thousand rupees a month.[2]

A treaty between Raghunathrao and the English was signed on 24 November 1778. This treaty provided Raghunathrao to carry on the Peshwa administration as a Regent and confirmed the treaty of Surat signed on March 6, 1775 ceding to the English, the town, fort and district of Bassein, the island of Salsette, Karanja, Kaneri, Elephanta and Hog in the Konkan region. It also provided for the assignment of paraganas of Varsaul and Ankleshwar "the revenueres of which are to be paid to the Hon. Company till the amount due for the expenses of the army is fully discharged".[3]

An advance party of the English troops started from Bombay on 22 November 1778 led by Captain James Stewart. It took possession of the Bor Ghat on 3rd December 1778, and then merched towards Khandala.[4] Raghunathrao was with the main force which ascended the Bor Ghat on 23 December 1778 and then marched towards Khandala.[5] This force was accompained with John Carnac, Colonel Charles Egerton and Thomas Mostyn.

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1. Ibid., p.281; Khare, Aitihasik Lekh Sangrana, Vol.4, No.1914, pp.2700-2703.
2. Sec.& Pol.D.D.No.17/A, pp.599-601; Grant Duff, History of the Mahrathas, II, p.332.
3. Sec. & Pol.D.D. No.19/A, pp.283-292.
4. Ibid., pp.283-293.
5. Khare, op.cit., Vol.7, p.3379-80.

Egerton became the commander of the army as he was President of the Committee.

But this campaign met with mishaps. Mostyn shortly took ill and returned to Bombay where he died on 1 January 1779.[1] Captain Stewart of the advance party was killed by a cannon shot on January 4, 1779 near Karla.[2] Two days later Colonel Egerton was obliged to resign command due to ill health and Lt. Col. Cockburn succeeded him.[3] The Maratha forces under Mahadaji Shinde, Tukoji Holkar, Bhimrao Panse marched from Poona and halted at Talegaon on December 1778 to await the English forces.[4] Balajipant Phatak marched to Kalyan at the head of four thousand horse. He devastated the area in the vicinity and stationed himself at Khopoli to intercept the supplies of the English army coming from Bombay.[5]

At the approach of the English Forces, Talegaon was burnt under order from Nana Phadnis.[6] When the English army reached Wadgaon, it was surrounded by the ministerial forces, then forty five thousand strong and was roundly defeated.[7] Four to five hundred English troops were killed and the

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1. Grant Duff, History of the Mahrattas, Vol.II, pp.364-366.
2. Forrest, Maratha Series, Vol.I, p.357.
3. Grant Duff, op.cit., p.368.
4. Forrest, op.cit., pp.350-351.
5. Khare, op.cit., No.2460, p.3391.
6. Ibid., No.2458, p.3390, No.2460, p.3391.
7. Ibid., No.2462, p.3392.

Marathas captured two thousand rifles, two big guns and five smallgguns.[1] Thus temporarially ended the battle with the English on the Konkan ground which was to resume soon. At the end of the year 1780, the English were striking hard to get a footing in the Konkan. In 1774 Karanja Island was taken by the English.[2] In 1779 the British occupied the island of Salsette, as also Thana, Belapur and Kalwa and all places adjacent to Kalyan.[3] In April 1780 the Bombay Army launched a campaign for capturingKKalyan. During the month of April, the British captured Parsik and Belapur the strategic places near Kalyan. On the 11th May, the town of Kalyan was taken by the English in their possession practically without any loss.[4] The Marathas tried to recapture the town but without success. The British acquisition of Kalyan had a strategic significance. It secured for them one of the most favourable opening into the Konkan as Kalyan

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1. Khare, op.cit., No.2459, p.3391.
2. Forrest, Maratha Series, Vol.I, pt.I, p.203. This island was captured by the English on 30.12.1774 and Mr. David Carnegie was appointed Resident by the Government of Bombay as per letter of William Hornby dated 6th January 1775 (See - Khobrekar, Maharashtra Archives Bulletin, No.3, Kalyan Diary, p.7, foot note 3).
3. Pol. D.D., No.22/1780, pp.330, 374-375.
4. Ibid.

is situated at easy and nearly equal distance from the principal passes leading to and from the Deccan.[1] The most coveted place in the Konkan was Bassein. The capture of Bassein was expected to complete their scheme of territorial acquisition on the west coast of India and make them masters of that part of country. Bassein had a great strategic importance. It commanded the Ghats and passes in its neighbourhood leading into the Deccan. Goddard proposed to commence the military operations in the next season by taking Bassein and capturing the neighbouring passes that led to the Deccan and thus bring the war to an immediate conclusion.[2]

So in Konkan, Goddard resumed warfare. On 13th November 1780, he arrived at Bassein and laid a siege to the fort a fortnight later.[3] The Marathas surrendered the fort to him on

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1. Pub.Deptt.Diary of 1780, Bombay Proceedings, 1st August 1780, President's minutes:
George Horsley was appointed as Resident of Kalyan on 26th February 1781 (vide Sec.& Pol.D.D.No.24, pp.91-97) to hold the charge of the administration of this new acquisition. The correspondence between the Resident and the Bombay Government about the management and collection of revenue of Kalyan occupies a major portion of manuscript Diary preserved in the Bombay Archives under the heading "Kalyan Resident Diary". This was edited and published by Shri V.G.Khobrekar in Maharashtra Archives Bulletin No.3, pp.63-88.
2. This was the plan of operation proposed by the Bombay President - See.Sec. & Pol.D.D.No.23, pp.648-653.
3. Ibid., No.23, pp.638-642.

11th December 1780.[1] After this Godard captured the fort of Arnala [2]. He then sent to the Nana Phadnis directly the Governor General's peace terms. Nana turned down this offer.

With the failure of this efforts, the English decided to march to Poona. Goddard reached Khandala on 9th February 1781. The Maratha forces advanced from Poona to oppose the English army. They devastated the **territory** between Poona and Panvel to prevent any supplies from Bombay, reaching Goddard's forces. Goddard was unable to reach Khandala. The English forces were continuously harassed by the Marathas. Goddard found himself isoloted and unable to move towards Poona and returned to Bombay with many losses.[3] Thereafter, the English sought a settlement with the Marathas. After protracted negotiations, two concluded a treaty and signed it at Salbye on 17th May 1782. By this treaty, the Marathas accepted the retention by the English of the islands of Salsette, Elephanta, Karanja and Hog and of the city of Baroch ceded by the Purandar treaty. The Salbye treaty provided for reciprocal protection, access to ports and assurance of freedom from molestation and disturbance for the vessels. Freedom of trade which was not mentioned in the Purandar treaty was specifically assured at Salbye.

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1. Ibid., Vol. 24, pp.28-29.
2. Ibid, Vol. 23, pp. 661-662.
3. Ibid, Vol. 24, pp. 271-274.

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During the progress of these events the English appointed Residents at Belapur, Kalyan and Karanja and from their reports some idea of the state of the country may be gained. These reports are found in the manuscripts Residency Diaries of the places preserved in the Bombay Archives.

PORTUGUESE-MARATHAS:

The Portuguese power was definitely on the decline after their defeat by the Marathas in the battle of Bassein in 1739. Yet, on suitable occasions, throughout the 18th century, they did not fail to help the Peshwa's enemies whenever occasion arose. In 1757 the Portuguese gave help to the Sawants against the Peshwas' admiral Naro Trimbak. This admiral of the Peshwas, was instigated by the Queen of Kolhapur to attack the key forts belonging to Sawants, adjacent to the Malwan coast. Naro Pant came with his fleet in the port of Malwan and attacked fort Bharatgad, Masura and Karli. The first two places are situated to the north-east of Malwan, and Karli to the south of Malwan along the coast.[1] The Sawants sought the help of the Portuguese who supplied ammunation, cannon balls and battalion to the Sawants. With this help Sawant repulsed Naro Trimbak's

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1. Gujar, Karvir Chhatrapati Gharanyacha Itihasachi Sadhane, parts 1-2, p.164.

attack. However, Karli and Nivati fell into the hands of Naro Trimbak, but were wrested from him whenthe Portuguese helped the Sawants. Repelled from Nivtyand Karli, Naro Trimbak attacked Vengurla by land and Sea. The Port Vengurla was a naval station of the Sawants, guarded by a fort. The fight lasted three days. After a loss of two hundred soldiers Naro Trimbak had a retreat. Though dogged by defeat, Naro Trimbak launched a vigorous attack on the fort of Sindhagad and captured it. This fort remained with the Peshwas till 1795.[1]

In January 1771 the Peshwa concentrated his forces numbering 2,000 under the command of Visaji Pant Lele. A naval squadron consisting of 17 Pale and 85 Galvats lay anchored in the Karli creek. The Peshwa had asked the Portuguese to give passage to this army through the Phonda region for proceeding against Hyder Ali. The Portuguese evaded the permission by giving lame excuses.[2]

TULAJI EPISODE

Tulaji Pawar, one of the culprits responsible for the murder of Peshwa Narayanrao on 30th August 1773, was in the service of Hyder Ali of Mysore. On completion of peace treaty with the Marathas, Hyder Ali dismissed Tulaji Pawar

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1. Mhamai, The Sawants of Wadi and the Portuguese, p.85.
2. Kakodkar, The Portuguese and the Marathas, p.614.

from his service as suggested by Nana Phadnis. Tulaji was then given shelter by Khem Sawant. Soon Khem Sawant handed over Tulaji to the Portuguese of Goa with a request that Tulaji be sent to Surat to join his master Raghunathrao. The Portuguese, without paying any heed to the request of Khem Sawant, handed over Tulaji to the Poona Darbar.[1]

An event creditable to the Maratha armada took place in March 1772. On 19th March 1772 Dhulap, Naval Commandant of the Peshwa stationed at Vijaydurg (Gheria), arrested a Portuguese frigate called 'Santana'. In the naval war 'Santana' fought well and caused death of two sarangs of the Marathas. Lastly it surrendered to the Maratha fleet and was taken to Vijaydurg with its crew as captive.[2] The Government ofGoa lodged a complaint to the Peshwa about the capture of "Santana". The Poona government in reply to wrote to Goa on 4th May 1772:" you sent friendly despatches which were reciprocated in the same spirit. While our relations were friendly, you behaved strangly in respect of Maydangad. Last year you did not allow passage to our army while it was marching on Hyder Ali. Who broke the trust it well known to you. We pay in the same coin. We esteem friendship but tit for tat is our policy". Thereafter in 1774 Peshwa

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1. Mhamai, op.cit., p.93.
2. Parvate, op.cit., p.224.

Raghunathrao, murderer of Narayanrao was dislodged from the Peshwaship by the Regency council at Poona. He fled to Surat and thereafter reached Broach. From Broach he sent his envoy to the Portuguese at Daman to win their support in his cause of getting Peshwaship. To prevent the Portuguese from giving help to Raghunathrao the regency Council at Poona decided to re-establish friendly relations with the Portuguese. In November 1775, the Portuguese ship "Santana" was made over to the Portuguese under the orders of the Peshwa. The masts, guns and other material had been removed by Dhulap and only its hull remained. The court of Poona assured the Portuguese of compensation for the same.[1] This was done in recognition of Portuguese friendship with Poona court. To negotiate for the compensation, the Portuguese deputed their envoy Narayan Vithal Dhume to Poona Court in 1774. The envoy also offered on behalf of Portuguese to abandon the cause of the dissident Maratha Chief, Raghunathrao in favour of the rightful Maratha Ruler, Peshwa Savai Madhavrao in consideration of monetary compensation of Rs.12,000 per annum confirmed by the treaty of 1779. Various drafts and Memoranda were followed by the Portuguese treaty executed by the Portuguese Governor Camara at Goa on 4th May 1779. It was ratified by the Marathas on on 17th December 1779.[2]

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1. Parvate, op.cit., p.227.
2. Counter-Memorial of the Government of India, Vol.II, Annexes, pp.59-61.

According to this treaty nine villages adjoining Daman worth twelve thousand rupees were assigned to the Portuguese by issuing a Sanad dated 11th February 1780 to Visaji Keshav, Subedar of Bassein.[1] A scrutriny of this treaty will show how the Marathas attacked importance to the friendship of the Portuguese at that time. Articles 1, 2, 3, 8 and 9 established the principle of friendly relations between the Marathas and the Portuguese fleets, when they met at the Sea. Article 16 provided for the return of ships wrecked on the coast of the other. Under articles 11, 12 and 13 the parties undertook neither to grant asylum to traitors, nor to traitors, nor to aid the enemies of the other and not to take advantage of the Military weakness of the other. Articles 4 and 14 dealt with the return of slaves and deserters. Article 5 dealt with the non-renewal of past disputes and Article 6 provided settlement of future differences by negotiations, through the Portuguese envoy at tne Poona Court. Article 15 prohibited the Portuguese from building fortifications in the territory of the Marathas. Article 17 dealt with the assignment by the Marathas of an annual grant of Rs.12,000 in consideration of Portuguese friendship with the Poona Court.[2] The village yielding the revenue of Rs.12,000 of Nagar Haveli Paragana were assigned to the Portuguese.[3] Paragana Nagar Haveli originally formed part of the territory

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1. Ibid., p.70.
2. Right of passage over India Territory: Portugal Vs.India, Vol.I, p.28.
3. Khobrekar, op.cit., pp. 66-67.

of the Raja of Ramnagar, later known as Dharampur. It may be remembered that in 1759, the Marathas acquired the Pargana Nagar Haveli from the Raja of Ramnagar and established Zakat ports and Dadra and Naroli.[1]

Imposter of Sadoba in Konkan:

Sadashivrao Bhau died in the battle of Panipat in 1761. During Peshwa Mahavrao's regime a person assumed the name of Sadashivrao Bhau and started creating disturbances for assuming Peshwaship. He was captured and lodged in the fort of Ahmednagar, as a prisoner. He was often transferred from place to place to avoid complicity with the sentries of the fort. While he was at Ratnagiri fort as a prisoner he convinced Subha Ramchandra Naik Paranjape, in charge of Fort Ratnagiri, that he was the real Sadashivrao Bhau. Naik Paranjape believed in the imposter and released him in March 1776. After release he pretended to be the great Sadashivrao Bhau. He was also mis-indentified as proper Sadashivrao Bhau by thousands of people who joined him, in his mission of capturing Poona.[2] Soon the Pretender raised an army of 18,000 men, consisting largly of Raghunathrao's adherents and succeeded in capturing the forts of Suvarnadurg and Deogad.[3] Maratha naval commandant Dhulup gave him the charge of Maratha Navy. The pretender also took possession of the forts of Anjanvel and Govalkot. The force which was sent against him by Poona Government was defeated and joined him. He established his sway over thewwhole of north-Konkan.[1] Many of the Poona officials of North-Konkan and Maratha Sardars - Hari Pant Bhaskar Patwardhan Ichalkaranjikar, Venkatrao Ghorpade and others were in collusion with him.[2] Day by day his military force was increasing. He also asked the help of the English of Bombay[3] and deputed his emmisary to Raghunathrao.[4] Thus he had established himself in Konkan. The Poona Government despatched a strong army [illegible] under Mahadaji Shinde and Bhivrao Panse and ordered them to bring him captive at Poona.[5] The Maratha army defeated him in the battle fought on the 27th October 1777 at Belapur. He was seized by Raghuji Angre[6] while he was on his way to Bombay and was despatched to Poona where he was executed on the 18th December 1777. Thus ended the depredations of the pretender in Konkan.

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[1] Right of Passage over Indian Territory :Portugal vs India, ~~Vol.~~ I, p. 33, item 83.

[2] Sec._ Pol.D.D. No.17/A, dated 14.10.1776; Khobrekar, Itihas Ani Sanskriti, year 19, book 55, p.44.

[3] Khare, Aitihasik Lekh Sangraha, L.1880.

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1. Khare, op.cit., L.1881.
2. Khobrekar, op.cit., pp.44-45.
3. Sec. & Pol. D.D.No.17/A, pp.453-469.
4. Khare, op.cit., L.1889.
5. Ibid., 1901.
6. Sec. & Pol. D.D.No.17/A, pp.577-579.

Piracy harrassed British trade on Western Coast. The British thought that the fall of Angre in 1756, was a death blow to piracy. But soon they found that the Chief of Kolhapur and Sawantwadi were as troublesome as the Angres of Kolaba. Most of the depredations were carried out by the Kolhapur people from their headquarters at Malwan fort (Sindhudurg) and by Wadi people from fort Redi, Vengurla and Nivati.

By 1764, the English had firmly laid the foundation of their dominion in India by their success in the battle of Buxar. They had thrown off their grab as traders and had been actively interfering in the internal affairs of the Indian states for political power. Their expansionist design was very clear and they scarcely allowed any opportunity to slip out of their hands for its fulfilment. The imperial Mughals were a spent force, and the real contest for the hegemony of India was now between the Marathas and the East India Company. The Marathas had considerably restored their power and position in the North under Peshwa Madhavrao I. But when he was engaged in a war with Hyder Ali of Mysore, the English found an opportunity to expand their power further on the west coast, South of Bombay.

Amongst the strategically situated places on the Western Coast, Fort Sindhudurg, Rajkot and Padmagad were in the possession of Chhatrapati of Kolhapur. Fort Redi and Vengurla with their adjoining villages were in the possession of the Chief of Sawantwadi. From Fort Sindhudurg and Redi, the piratical activities of the natives were increased to such extent that from the year 1762 to 1764 British trading Vessels got molested by them. Due to this depredations, the British trading vessels suffered a loss. The British East India Company got many complaints, of molestation of their Ships by the pirates from the traders. The British had written many letters asking the Chiefs of Kolhapur and Sawantwadi to stop piratical activities on the sea. But both the Chiefs could not do anything and the nuisance of pirates continued to trouble the sea-going British Vessels. To put a stop to these piratical activities, in the month of January 1765, an expedition was equipped against Malwan. One time the British Company had thought of taking help of the Portuguese for attacking the fort. But fearing that they might hoist their colours as auxiliaries to the British, the idea was given up.

The officers commanding expedition to Malwan were asked to demand from the Kolhapur Raja, security for not molesting in future, the British trading ships either by depositing a sum of money or sending hostages to Bombay.[1] The object of the expedition was to destroy and if possible utterly root out a nest of pirates situated on Malwan coast who for a long time past had repreated depredations on the British trade and on the subjects of the island greatly to the prejudice of the fair trader and to the welfare of society in general.[2]

The British navy blockaded Sindhudurg and captured it on 26th January 1765 with about 400 prisoners.[3] The Bhosle's officers waited on the British officer desiring the friendship of the English. But they were asked to explain how the Malwan Gallivats had taken shelter in their river. They deferred giving an answer. Thereafter, the British force proceeded to the Karli river under, Bhosles' jurisdiction and with their armed Boats went up 15 miles. The Bhosle's men pleaded for the return of the British force as the inhabitants were deserting the villages on their approach. They also agreed to deliver the gallivats with the people. When this was done, the British force under captain White went to reduce a small fort about 5 miles to the northward which was abandoned on his approach.[4]

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[1] Warden Selection, Vol.I, p.147.

[2] Ibid., p.148.

[3] Ibid.

[4] Ibid., p.150.

The fort Sindudurg was occupied by the British garrison and captain Thomas Mostyn was appointed as Resident of the fort which was named as Fort Augustus. Thereafter, the British thought of demolishing the principal fort. They also got estimate of expenditure for this purpose amounting to Rs.1,30,000 (one hundred and thirty thousand rupees). They were given to understand that for demolishing the fort twelve months period would be required during which time they would require to keep a garrison. So the British gave up the idea of demolishing the fort and decided to keep possession of Malwan and the fort till the courts' decision could be known.[1]

In the meantime, the British adopted the necessary measures for putting affairs at Malvan on proper footing. To establish boundaries of the occupied territories and to collect the revenues which might be annexed to them, the British appointed Samuel Court and ordered him to proceed to act in consultation with Gowin and Watson in carrying these points into execution. The British had occupied the territory between the two rivers, the Karli and Salsee, which belonged to the Bhosle. The civil'Government of this land' was left in charge of Samuel Court. It was also decided that for handing over this territory to Bhosle, a deposit of more than two lakhs of rupees should be asked from the Bhosle.[2] In the terms proposed for

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1. Warden Selection Vol.I, p.152.
2. Ibid., p.153.

negotiations with Bhosle, two important articles were inserted, one in respect to protecting the deserters and the other regarding ship wrecks. The British declared Malwan as a free port and the inhabitants were encouraged to give protection to the British flag. They were given liberty of exercising their religion. But neither Kolhapur nor Sawantwadi were prepared to accept the terms dictated by the British. They evaded, the settlement with the British.[1]

Thereafter the British Fleet headed by Major Gordon and Captain Watson was deputed to capture Fort Raree (Redi). The Fleets laid seige to the Fort Redi on 6th March 1765. Without much resistence the British captured the Fort on Saturday, 9th March 1765.[2] This news was received as a shock by the Raja of Kolhapur, who lamented over the incident in a letter to Jivaji Vishram, Diwan of Sawantwadi. British garrisoned this Fort Yashwantgad and named it as Fort Raree (Redi).

The Honourable Company entered into a treaty with the Bhosle on 7th April 1765. The treaty was concluded at Fort Redi. For the stricter observence of the treaty of peace, the Bhosle agreed to send two hostages of note, with their families, to reside at Bombay, and to be maintained at his cost. It was agreed that he should cede the lands and tenaments situated between the rivers of Karli and Salsi from the sea shore to the

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1. Warden Selection, Vol.I, p.156.
2. Pingulkar, History of Sawantwadi, L.No.85, Dated 12th March 176 pp.65-66.

foot at the Ghat to the Honourable Company. It was stipulated in the treaty that Bhosle should pay to the Honourable Company one lakh of Rupees as the restitution for the expences. Half to be paid in eight days from the date of conclusion of this treaty; Rs.25,000 within 12 months of this date and the remainder Rs.25,000 within three years from the date thereof. And according to article 13, the Fort of Masura with all the guns, shot, carriages and the stores therein should be delivered to the Honourable Company within eight days from the date of conclusion of the treaty in lieu thereof the Honourable Company would deliver up to the Bhosle the Fort of Raree (Redi) with all guns and carriages. The Bhosle should permit the Honourable Company to build a factory on any part of his territories adjacent to the sea-shore. The Bhosle agreed to allow all merchants and Wanjaras free liberty to pass and repass his territories to and fro from Fort Augustus. Article 19 of the treaty states that the Bhosle has agreed to fulfil the abovementioned first, second, third and thirteenth Articles within eight days from the signature of this treaty, in default of which he has agreed to pay all the charges of maintaining garrison of the Fort Redi till the delivery of the Fort to the Bhosle.[1]

By this treaty the Bhosle felt that the Company acquired large territory and was asked to pay ransom for Redi. The

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1. Aitchison, Treaties Engagements and Sanads etc. Vol.VIII, pp.183-186.

Bhosle of Wadi repented of this engagement and instead of adhering and honouring the treaty, he joined the Chief of Kolhapur against the English. Both of them made attempts to recover the Forts of Sarjekot and Rajkot, but the attack was repulsed by the English.[1] But the treaty was concluded for surrendering them to the Company in the beginning of 1766.[2] Various difficulties appear, however, to have intervened in respect of both of the abovementioned treaties which are explained in detail in Warden's Volumes Nos.1 and 4.[3]

It was also found by the East India Company that the Bhosle hesitated to comply with the articles of treaty in regard to Fort Raree (Redi). The garrison was reinforced in April 1766 and Mr. Brome was posted there as a resident. He was asked to work in subordination to Thomas Mostyn, the Resident at Fort Augustus. Charles Brome was in charge of the Fort Raree (Redi) from April 1766 to October 1766. In October 1766 another peace treaty was concluded by the Chief of Wadi[4] with the Company and the Raree was delivered back to the Bhosle.

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1. Wardens Selection, Vol.1, Item 4.
2. Aitchison's, op.cit., Vol.VIII, pp.220-222.
3. Warden was the first Chief Secretary to Government of Bombay after its formation of Bombay Presidency in 1820. He extracted materials from the records of the Bombay Government for constructing a history of the rise of the British power in Western India. There are nineteen big Vols. containing the material. They are in manuscript form. They are called "Warden's Selections".
4. Wardens Selection, Vol.4.

Brome as a Resident at Fort Raree discharged his duties and wrote the transactions he had done with the natives and the native Chiefs, so also the business concluded by him with them. All his dealings are entered by him in his Diary, known as Raree-Residency Diary No.213 of 1766 preserved in the Bombay Archives.

Thomas Mostyn, Resident of Fort Augustus, in his letter dated 29 April 1766, instructed Charles Brome to proceed to Redi to take charge of Hon. Company's affairs there with the garrison and two ships loaded with seven months' provision for his garrison and cash of Rs.3000 with Military and artillery stores. Charles Brome accordingly proceeded to fort Redi and reached there on 1st May 1766.[1] On his arrival Brome came to know that the Portuguese established a Chawkey so close due to which European soldiers often deserted him and went to take selter with them.

On 2nd May one officer of Bhosle of Sawantwadi met Charles Brome and in the conversation hinted to him the Bhosle's desire to purchase the fort from the English. Thereupon, Brome expressed the Company's wish to sell the fort to the Bhosle for Rs.1¼ lakhs. The Bhosles representative went back to Sawantwadi to inform the king accordingly.[2]

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1. Raree Residency Diary of 1766, p.1.
2. Ibid., p.3.

Brome also informed Thomas Mostyn about Bhosle's desire to continue friendship with the Englisn. He also explained in the same letter dated 10.5.1766 how Bhosle's sepoys who trespassed to the districts belonging to the Hon. Company were captured by him.[1] Thomas Mostyn in reply cautioned Charles Brome about the Bhosle's double dealings with the British. Soon, Charles Brome experienced the Bhosle's tricky behaviour. The Bhosle, who assured the Hon. Company of observing a strict amity, deputed his sepoys to collect revenue of the villages of Turf Ajagaon.[2] which was under the Company. Thereupon Charles Brome warned the Bhosle to stop depredations by his sepoys in the British territory (which was recently captured alongwith the fort Redi) otherwise he would be answerable for the consequences.[3] By this time Jiwaji Vishram was removed from the Diwanship by the Raja of Sawantwadi. So Jiwaji Vishram revolted against the Raja and pledged his support to the English against Sawantwadi.[4] In the meantime, Bhosle's men who tresspossed into the British territory were captured and taken as prisoners by Charles Brome. When Bhosle came to know this, he protested to the English saying that in the agreement between the Sawantwadi and the English there was a provision to give free access to their habitants of both the

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1. Raree Residency Diary of 1766, pp.8-9.
2. Ibid., pp.12-13.
3. Ibid., pp.14-15.
4. Ibid. p.16.

territories without molesting them and demanded release of the captured men.[1]

On capture of fort Sindhudurg in April 1765 the Hon. Company made a treaty with the Rani of Kolhapur for relinquishing the forts by the Company in the beginning of 1766 by one of the articles to which Rani of Kolhapur was bound to pay the sum of seven and half lakhs Rupees to the Hon. Company. Out of this sum, it was also agreed upon that one lakh was to be given the captors and the remainder to be appropriated to afford restitution to the sufferers of the depredations of Malwan and to re-imburse the Hon. Company for the expenses of the expedition. The Kolhapur Rani also laid claims to the restoration of the vessels and stores that had been captured from her. Monstyn refused to comply with the Rani's claim.[2] As there was no prospect of obtaining all money from the Rani of Kolhapur, the English decided to restore the fort of Malwan to the Rani of Kolhapur on the following condition. She had to give the English a security for her future conduct, indemnify them for losses and expenses amounting to Rs.38,896 and from the agreed amount and to pay Rs.50,000 before the evacuation of Malwan in May, 1766.[3] This work of recovering money from the Kolhapur Royal family was entrusted to Charles Brome who was at Redi. But he could not recover the whole money for the first payment from Kolhapur for

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1. Raree Residency Diary of 1766, pp.17.
2. Warden Selection, Vol.I, p.168-169.
3. Ibid., p.169.

fort Sindhudurg. Therefore, Mostyn detained two persons, Gangaji Dalvi and Naro Kasi of Kolhapur as security against the payment of Rs.50978-1-25 due from Kolhapur. The detainees were lodged at fort Redi[1] and Charles Brome was asked to recover the amount from the Kolhapur and set free the detainees.

Essaji Shinde, Commander-in-Chief of Kolhapur sent Rs.30793-2-37 to Charles Brome and asked him to give receipt of of the same to Gangaji Dalvi and promised to pay the balance of Rs.Seventeen thousand nine hundred and forty in due course.[2] The English received the remaining amount on 25th May 1766. Therefore, Charles Brome set free Gangaji Dalvi according to Mostyn's command and informed Charles Crommelin, President and Governor in Council at Bombay by his letter dated 27.5.1766.[3]

Charles Brome, Resident at Redi came to know that Sadashiv Pant, Officer in British service, while he was on his way to Redi from Malwan with his men was stopped near Niwati by the officer of Sawantwadi, Shri Devaji Warrang and despatched them to Sawantwadi. Sadashiv Pant was assured his release by the Bhosle provided he used his good offices with the British for purchase of fort Redi by them.[4] The Resident showed his willingness and asked Sadashiv Pant to come with Bhosle's

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1. Raree Residency Diary of 1766, p.20.
2. Ibid., p.21.
3. Ibid., Letter dated 27 May 1766.
4. Ibid., Letter dt.12 June 1766.

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officer to megotiate purchase of fort Redi.[1] Bhosle also promised the Resident to depute his man for that purpose.[2] In the meantime, the Resident understood that the Bhosle established a Chawky in the vicinity of Redi fort to house his detachment. The Bhosle's sepoys also got possession of the hills round the English Chowky. So the Resident took suitable measures for the protection of the inhabitants[3] under the English rule. The Resident received timely assistance from Malwan of a detachment of 30 Europeans, 50 sepoys and 30 lascars and ammunition.[4] The force fired on the Sawant's Chawky. The Bhosle's men returned to the attack. They took advantageof the English party hastening through a narrow road and attacked them on all sides in which two Europeans, two Bombay sepoys and one Kasim Naik were killed and nine Europeans, five Bombay Sepoys and one hawaldar got wounded.[5] To prevent this sad recurrence the Resident established two Chawkis and sent a report to Bombay saying that it was not in his power to prevent the country from being plundered by the enemy, who in small parties in the night entered the villages and arrived and whatever they could get hold of from the inhabitants who, if they resisted, were carried forcibly away to Sawantwadi. The Resident also saw little prospect of the

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1. Raree Residency Diary of 1766, Letter dt.12 June 1766.
2. Ibid., Letter dt.17.6.1766.
3. Ibid., Letter dt.20.6.1766.
4. Warden Selection Vol.I, pp.172-173.
5. Ibid., pp.174-175.

farmers being able to perform their contract with the company, the Bhosle having carried away last years revenues and threatened the Patils if they paid any of this years revenue to the English, the greatest part of whom were either prisoners at Redi or fled to the Ghats.[1] So in August 1766 the English came to the conclusion that it was in their interest to get rid of the fort of Redi as soon as possible as the revenue accrued from the fort Redi and the villages attached to it, was not sufficient to defray the expenses of keeping it.[2] So Mostyn was asked to go to Redi to conclude the best terms he might be able to negotiate with the Bhosle. Mostyn arrived at Redi on 4th October 1766 and confined with Bhosle's two officers who arrived there for negotiations. After prolong negotiations, a settlement was effected. Mostyn managed to secure from the Bhosle a payment of two lakhs and an assurance that he would not commit any further piracies and that the Redi would he restored to him. This sum could be realised only by mortgaging the district of Vengurla for 13 years. As a security, two hostages from Wadi were secured by Mostyn from the Sawant.[3] One Vithoji Kamat was prevailed upon to advance that amount. Thereupon, Kamati declared that unless the English took possession of Vengurla, hoist the English colours

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1. Warden Selection Vol.I, p.176.
2. Ibid., p.178.
3. Ibid., p.180

and keep some sepoys there, he would not stand security for the performance of the articles as he could not place any confidence in the Bhosle. The Sawants agreed to this proposal and also allowed a small factory to be built at Vengurla under an English flag and a few sepoys left in the Vengurla fort.[1] The Kamati agreed to advance to the English Rs.58,000 out of the agreed payment of 120,000 rupees to be paid after the delivery of the fort to the Bhosle. The treaty entered into with the Bhosle was approved and Mostyn proceeded on 5th November1766 to Vengurla to take possession of the fort. He hoisted the English colour on Vengurla fort and left 25 sepoys there in conformity with the treaty.[2]

But in May 1766, Mostyn received, after various negotiations with the Malwan Ranee, Rs.3,31,917. 2. 27 leaving the balance of Rs.50978. 1. 25 where of twenty eight thousand were to be paid in 8th days and the remainder in a month.[3] Thereafter, Mr. Mostyn left fort Augustus and ordered it to be restored to the Rani of Kolhapur. In March 1767, on payment from the Bhosle the fort of Redi was given up to that prince as in the preceding month of October he had entered into an ammended

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1. Saletore, Indian Pirates, p.82.
2. Warden Selection, Vol.I, pp.181-182.
3. Information in this para and in the subsequent paras is compressed from the lengthy report of the Bombay Government addressed to Sir John Shore, Barter, Governor in Council in 1796. This English report of 64 pages is found preserved in the Peshwa Daftar, Pune in the Section "Selected Papers for further Research," Rumal 47, Pudka 1 pages Nos.20281-20344.

treaty with the Company to pay 2 lakhs of rupees on account of the charges of expedition in part of which the aforesaid payment to the amount of Rs.80,000 was made good before the surrender of the fort. The residue was fixed to be made by two equal instalment falling due on 24th October 1767 and on the same day of the year 1768.[1]

At this time Brome was transferred to Vengurla, a port within the Bhosles Dominions, which had been made over to the company as security for the residue of the Ransoon for Redi.

But neither the Kolhapur Rani nore the Bhosle of Wadi had shown any willingness to make more payments. On the contrary, in May 1769 the Bombay council got the news that hostages she had given for the undischarged part of the fort Augustus' renson were put into close confinment. The Rani was threatened by Brome, the Resident at Vengurla, with dire consequences. But there was no effect till at last the President was empowered in 1771 to accept the Rani's offer of two lakhs in lieu of all demands but even this she continued to evade compl ying with. It was with greatest difficulty that Brome and Henshow recovered from her, in the year 1772, in part there of the amount of Rs.81585. Since then nothing was paid owing to Rani's demise in the following year. But the demands were continued to be made from time to time to her successor, the Raja of Kolhapur. The Bhosle of Sawantwadi, from 1773 extended his depredations on company's trade. He made a futile attempt October 1775 to surprise the fort of Vengurla which was fortified by the English. At last, in the year 1781, the Bhosle did successfully surprise and reduce the fort of Vengurla. The English tried to check those depredations through negotiations by requesting the Puna Government and Mahadji Shinde to prevail on his new relations, the Sawants, to restore their illegal gains, the Raja of Kolhapur to liquidate balances due to the company and to refrain from future aggression. These negotiations came to naught.[1]

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[1] Peshwa Daftar, Selected papers for further Research, op.cit., para 7.

Meanwhile, Malwan Raja in 1785 restored a grab taken by his piratical fleet and sent Ten Thousand rupees in further payment of the dues from his predessesor. He wished for continuance of the Hon. Company's friendship. Notwithstanding, his fleet continued their depredations on the English navigation in the same year by capturing of four trading Boats called Shybars. Although they were furnished with company's permits, he seized them and compelled them to pay for their protection.[2] He also told them in that the English passes were not sufficient without his endorsement. In 1786 the Raja of Kolhapur himself

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1. Ibid., para 10.
2. Ibid., para 11.

took a large army into the Konkan, stormed Bharatgad, Nivati and Vishalgad which commands the low level part of the southern Konkan. On account of Sawant's getting assistance from Goa, he evacuated Nivati and Vengurla but appointed Mamlatadars and other officials to the rest of the newly acquired territory.[1] In 1787 he also expressed his surprise at the demand for residue of the Ranson for fort Augustus continuing to be made on him. He proposed to establish an office of his own at Bombay for the issuing of his passes to all company's vessels.

During the years 1788 and 1789 the Raja continued his piratical activities on the natives' vessels sailing under company's passes to such degree that finding all peaceable attempts fruitless the Bombay cruizers were authorised in May 1789 to destroy such of these Corsairs as they might be found. When the Raja came to know this, hessent up sultanjirao and Raghunath as his vakeels in October 1789 to negotiate with the English. But it was then deemed derogatory to enter into any discussion till the English merchants had been satisfied and thus the accommodation was suspended and the Raja's plundering went on as usual.[2]

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[1] Nairne, Konkan, p.108.

[2] S.P.R.(Selected Papers for further Research) op.cit.,para 12.

In the year 1790 an attempt was made to settle those points through the mediation of the Pune Govt. At this time the Company made claim on the Raja for Rs 94,724.1.21 The Raja then agreed to pay the balance of his debts to the Company. But this did not materialise, still the complaints of the traders continued as before. In 1792 while these events were in progress, the Bombay Government had prepared an armament against Kolhapur. Finding that an expedition was organised to punish him, the Raja of Kolhapur entered into a treaty[1] with the English Company. The English were allowed to have a factory at Malwan and at Kolhapur and to hoist their flag there till all claims were paid.[2] But even this treaty proved abortive, for in 1796 the piracies of Redi, Kolhapur and Vishalgad recommenced.[3]

In 1785, Anandrao Dhoolup, the Paishwa's Naval Commander at Gheria, captured the Candery, a vessel belonging to one of British Merchants at Tellicherry; and detained it in his harbour. He also imprisoned and ill-treated Captain Straehan, the Commander of the "Lord Rodney", a Countryship belonging to M/s Tairlee. This ship which was bound to China with a cargo of Cotton[4]. The ship took shelter at the Gheria Fort.

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[1] Aitchison, Treaties,Engagements etc., Vol. VI,p.94

[2] Nairne, Konkan, p. 107.

[3] S.P.R., Op.cit. , para 13.

[4] Ibid, para 14.

The English sent repeated requests for the release of the ship. The 'Rodney' was ultimately released. It was not till after she had been in some measure plundered and her Cargo damaged for which no indemnification was given. Its hull and stores stood valued at 30,000 Rupees; besides the loss of Cargo. The whole loss must have amounted to above seventy thousand Rupees[1]

The Angrean family followed the general example and in 1788 seized and carried into their Harbour of Colaba the 'Chichester'. After detaining if the ship was released on the ground of the Bombay Governments remonstrances, Captain Blake, her Commander, estimated his loss by detention at Rs.20,000.[2]

In the same year and in 1789, another complaint was made against the Angre, first for plundering a Pattamar Boat from Tellicherry and secondly for detaining a Craft of Timber appertaining to Captain Moss, When questioned, the Angre, pointed out that it was wholly seized by the Peshwa's Manager at Underi a place on the limits of his Taluk.[3] However, since the year 1972 all the pirates had particularly distinguished themselves in the most unreserved and audocious attacks on the British ships and vessels from time to time.[4]

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1. Peshwa Daftar, Selected Papers for further Research, R.47 Pu.1 Kagad 20295 (14).
2. Sec.& Pol.D.D.Vol.39, 1789, pp.9-10.
3. Ibid.
4. P.D.,S.P.R., op.cit., para 17.

In 1792, the Angre's fleet seized a Botella called 'the Ruparel' appertainingto Rottenjee Bomanjee, valued at Rs.14,092.2.0 and also a 'Shyber' or Boat Cargo belonging to Govaljee Treecumjee. The Angre refused to restore the Cargo valued by the owners but sent back the vessels to Bombay as a special case.[1]

In the same year (1792) the Gallivats belonging to Kolhapur Raja stood charged with plundering the ship 'Harvit' of Captain Stockhouse, of Goods amounting to 8432 Rs. Besides t the pirates also collected between twenty and thirty thousand more from several other European and Native Traders.[2]

The Bhosle also joined these successful depredations by his neighbour the Kolhapur Raja. In the beginning of the year 1793, his fleet ca rried into Redy harbour, the ship Myrlle from Bengal. It was detained and the goods to the value of Rs.19,615 were plundered. In 1764, the Raja of Kolhapur made some more attempts to negotiate with the Bombay Government by deputing his Vakeel and principal minister called Nagojirao. They tendered Raja's apology for not fulfilling his former engagement owing tothe trouble in his countries. These envoys expressed Raja's desire to be under the Company's protection. The Vakeels also spoke the Raja's intention to cede to the Company newly acquired territory from the Patwardhan as security for liquidating Company's claims on him. The Raja also desired to have

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1. Sec.& Pol.D.D., Vol.43/1792, p.325.
2. Ibid., Vol.52/1796, pp.1315-18.

an English gentleman reside at his Darbar. The Bombay Government referred this matter to the Supreme Government for decision with their opinion in the matter saying "that the Raja has in all his negotiations acted with so much perfidy that no faith can be put in his promises".[1]

Again, in April 1795, the Bombay Government received letters from the Raja of Kolhapur expressing his wish to be on friendly terms with the Bombay Government and expressed his regret for not complying with the communications made by him. But soon afterwards viz. in May of the same year, reports were received that the Raja's Armed vessels were continuing their sea-robberies.[2] In December 1795 they seized a ship containing Liutt. Moulgomerie's purchases for the Madras Cavalry; so the English demanded compensation for the loss, this demand was repeated by the Governor in January 1796.[3] Thereupon the Raja suggested that the English should send one Cruizer down to bring up his Minister Nagoojee, who would be commission to settle every thing. From the past experience and from Raja's correspondence the company had reason to believe that all the Raja's proposals or rather those of his Ministers had no other object and tendency but to evade and procrastinate the day of account. So when the English did not acceed to Raja's

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1. Sec.& Pol.D.D., Vol.52/1796, pp.1220-56.
2. Kolhapur, Niwadi Daftar, Ru.48, Pud.1, pp.7348-7349.
3. Ibid.

request Kolhapur pirates captured another Boat similarly laden with Horses for the Carnatic Cavalry; and seized also the several other ships having the Company's pass. The whole sum of unsatisfied private or personal claims from the Company against the said Raja amounted to Rupees 358,068.3.90 whilst the Company's own had accumulated with interest to 91,8614.3.07. Thus the Treaty of November 1792 was voileted by the Raja which was considered as no longer in force.[1]

The Bombay Company's claims against the aggressions of Angre during 1793 related to a float of timber belonging to Purushottam, a native of Bombay. His float was consumed by fire in a dispute between late Raghuji Angre and the Peshwa's officers. The Angre pleaded that as the goods on board belonged to the subject of the Peshwas, they had a right to make reprisals.[2] In 1794 a complaint was made by two Tandels of having their Boat plundered by Angres' cruizers. In January 1795, the Bombay Government made a claim on the Angrian State and asked them to deliver the articles to the estimated value of Rs.12,000 saved from a boat belonging to Tulsey Oadajee that had been driven onthe Rocks on that part of the coast, by stress of weather. The

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[1] Ibid., pp.7438-7439.

[2] Peshwa Daftar, S.P.R., op.cit., para 27; Sec.& Pol.D.D.Vol.52, pp.1220-56.

Angre evaded the payment stating that nothing had been saved.[1] In June of the same year, the Angrian Armed vessels carried into Colaba the English 'Brig. Bassein'. Its Captain belonging to the naval force was for some time detained in confinement. A part of the Cargo of that vessel which suffered by plunder wasto the value of Rs.12,340. At the request of Bombay Government, the vessel and people were released with the residau of the Cargo.[2]

The points thus at issue relating to the Botellas and 'Bassein's Cargoes' were referred to the Resident at Poona. Thereupon, Nana Phadnis, the then Minister in authority at Poona, proposed that such part of the"Bassein's Cargoes" as remained unrestored should be paid for, in time, agreeably to the value and added that a negotiation was on foot with the owner of the Bottella in Bombay; from whom a satisfactory reply was awaited. But these pleas being deemed evasive, calcutta Government instructed and authorized the Bombay Government in February 1795 to avail themselves of the first favourable opportunity to exact compensation for their loss.[3]

The occasional Excess committed by the Peshwa's own fleet at Gheria up to the end of 1792 were previously explained. In 1793 its Naval Commander Anandrao Dhulap

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1. Ibid., 45, pp.173-174.
2. Ibid., pp.1256-70.
3. Ibid., 49, pp.132-150 dt.26 February 1795.

captured the Grab 'Sadee' under a Bengal Pass. After several months' negotiation it was released but without indemnification for the plunder of part of the Cargo.[1]

In December 1795, Anandrao Dhulap captured the vessel belonging to Purshotum Nathoodass on the Plea that her dimenssions and descriptions in point of Guns and men, did not correspond with the particulars specified in the English Pass. After several letters between Bombay President and Anandrao, the latter released the vessel in May 1796, but detained the Cargo on Plea of having made a report of the case to Poona.[2]

In February 1796 the same Anandrao made a similar exceptionable capture of a Pattamar Boat belonging to Sheikh Hussayne; but released her in May 1796 on receipt of a letter from the Bombay President.[3]

Meanwhile, in the month of April 1796, he made a still more exceptionable seizure of the Grab Ebram Salee navigating under an English Pass. The new administration at Poona appeared to have promised the release of both the above-mentioned undue seizures. Yet the accomplishment remained unperformed. These complaints were taken up by the English Resident at Poona with the Poona Government to seek redress and to achieve safety of the ships for carrying trade.[4]

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1. Ibid., 45, pp.173-174.
2. Peshwa Daftar, S.P.R., op.cit., para 32.
3. Sec.& Pol.D.D., Vol.54/1796, pp.2291-93.
4. Ibid., pp.2397-99.

In May 1796, on instructions from the Supreme Government the Bombay Government proposed to have discussions on the outstanding objects with the Rani of Angrian State with the motive of bringing peaceable adjustment with that small state. Accordingly, Lieutt. Wilson, the Governor aid de camp and the Persian Translator to Bombay Government paid a visit to the Angrian Rani at her Capital of Colaba and entered into a full discussion of the several claims on their part for the detention and plunder of ships and Boats from the year 1788 to 1796. In the discussions between Lieutenant Wilson and Basker Pundit (the Minister of Angre's widow) the latter stated that whatever articles were cast on the shore of the Angrian Districts during the distresses were considered as belonging to the State. He also expressed his Government's enxiety to Lieutenant Wilson to enter into a direct treaty with the English, which would effectually put a stop to all such maraudings on the part of her fleet in time to come.[1]

But to proceed to the other claims, the Rani acquiesced in paying Rs.9,000 for the "Ruparel Botella" and her Cargo but she positively refused making any payment for the 'Shybar' of Trecumjee pointing out that there were no goods in the 'Shybar' when the fleet was recaptured from the Coolies.[2]

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1. Ibid., 52, pp. 1113-1196.
2. Ibid., pp.1114-1178.

The Rani next refused to pay for the 300 pieces of Timber of Purshotumjee, which had floated into Angre's Districts, on the plea that they were partly seized and partly burnt by the people of the Peshwa. She also refused to make any payment on account of the seizure of "Bhagwan Calla" and "Govindjees Boat". as they were not inhabitants of Bombay, but of the Peshwa's Country.[1] She also refused to admit the next claim on behalf of the heirs of Toolsey Woodajee for the articles seized on from his Botella, in January 1795 which was stranded near the Island of Kenery. The Rani declared that nothing was justly due from her on that account as Premchund, the Gomastta of Toolsey, had come and taken away such of the articles as were saved andas he thought worth transporting.[2]

Lastly Lieut. Wilson lodged a complaint to the Rani in respect of the outrages committed on the Brig.Bassein; commanded by a Captain Force. The Rani said that on finding that vessel to be really English property she had released. the "Bassein" and sent it to Bombay. Lt.Wilson agreed to receive Rs.2,000 against the damages claimed by its captain finding that it was all he could get, Wilson agreed to accept Rupees 2,000 as an indemnification for the said claim.[3]

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1. Ibid.
2. Ibid.
3. Peshwa Daftar, S.P.R., Ibid., para 41.

After termination of the discussión between the Rani and Lieutenant Wilson, the latter told her that he was by no means satisfied with her answers and expressed his resentment. To all this she replied that she had gone every possible length to satisfy him, but that she could not acquiesce any responsibility for claims not fairly made out against her. At the same time, she professed her earnest desire to remain in amity with the Bombay Government declaring that she considered herself and her children as appertaining to the English Government. She also expressed her wish to station a Vakeel on her behalf at Bombay who would, she observed, be answerable for the propeiety of her conduct.[1]

When Lt. Wilson demanded payment of the entire sum thus agreed to be paid, amounting altogether to Rupees 17,500. The Rani and her minister expressed their inability to pay the amount as there was no ready money in the treasury. Therefore, the Rani returned a promisary note of that amount to the English. She requested them not to send a force against either her fleet or capital of Colaba.[2] At this time the general survey and assessment of the Konkan was proposed by Nana Phadnis. But it did not materialise due to the accession of Bajirao II to the Peshwaship.[3]

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[1] Sec. & Pol.D.D., Vol.52, p.1179.

[2] Peshwa Daftar, S.P.R., op.cit., paras 42-44.

[3] Nairne, *Konkan*, p.109.

CHAPTER VIII

CONQUEST OF KONKAN BY THE EAST INDIA COMPANY

(1796 to 1818)

After the triumph - battle of Kharda, the Peshwa Sawai Madhavrao, who was twenty one, developed a melancholy temper and a mood of despondency, threw himself down the balcony of his palace on 25th October 1795 and two days later he died. This tragic death of the Peshwa brought disaster on the Maratha Empire. With the death of the Peshwa, Nana Phadnis' custodianship and his regency came to an end. Nana Phadnis tried to retain his position against the popular sentiment which favoured the cause of Bajirao II, the son of Raghunathrao, who was the rightful successor to the Peshwaship. By the superior intrigues of Bajirao, Nana's attempt of obstructing Bajirao's claim to the *Masnad* was foiled. So Nana released Bajirao from the custody at Junnar and installed him to the Peshwaship at Poona on 6th December 1796.[1] Now Shinde's men came forward with their trained battalions to control the affairs of Poona. Nana got frightened for his own safety and left the capital on 21st March 1796 and came to Satara. He stayed at Wai for some days and when he came to know that Shinde's forces marched upon Wai to secure his person, he left that place in a secret manner on 3rd June 1796 and on the 6th arrived at Mahad, a large town within a few miles of the East India Company's district of Bankot.[1] Immediately, on 11th June 1796, Uhthoff, the assistant Resident at Poona wrote to the Resident of Bankot to be watchful about the movements of Nana Phadnis.[2]

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[1] Khobrekar, *Marathyanchya Swaranche Mukam,* p.435

Episode of Mahad Diplomacy :

On his arrival at Mahad, Nana closed three of the roads from the Ghats communicating with Mahad by establishing numerous Chawkies. He had at that time with him 1200 horse and 5000 foot. He wanted to raise more troops according to English records.[3] The Marathi contemporary letters, however, state that Nana gave leave to his horsemen and troops after retaining about 700 men.[4] In Poona Chimanaji Appa became the Peshwa and Parshuram Bhau Patwardhan was appointed to manage the administration.[5] Parshuram Bhau who was Nana's friend had sent his son to Wai for a reconciliation with Nana.[6] But Nana refused to accept this friendly call. About the end of the month Nana actually opened negotiations with the English. On 27th June, Nana's agent presented a letter to Malet who was then at Bombay.[1] From the security of Mahad, Nana set out to enlist support for himself from all possible quarters by spending much of his treasure which he had placed with trusted bankers all over the country.[2] This he did for full four months from Mahad (10th June to 10th November 1796). About the end of the month of June a rumour spread at Poona that Nana was seeking shelter with the English and that Salsette had been fixed for his residence.[3] It was also rumoured that Nana opened secret negotiations with the Nizam, the Bhosle, the Raja of Kolhapur, the officers of the Huzurat at Poona and with Tukoji Holkar, Baba Phadke and even with Mushir-ul-Mulk, the Nizam's minister who was staying at Poona as a hostage for the fulfilment of the terms of treaty of Kharda.[4] Nana had also requested Nizam to keep ready his 15,000 cavalry and 15,000 infantry to march at his signal to Poona.[5] It was Nana's intention to stay at Raigad. Subhedar of Raigad was Dadaji Gadre who was willingly helping Nana's cause. But Shinde approached Dadaji Gadre though his wife with an advice to abondon Nana's cause. Dadaji Gadre sent his wife away and Nana was taken into Raigad fort. Nana Phadnis was accompanied with Anyaba, a son of Hari Pant Phadke, Raghopant Godbole, Aba Shelukar and Bajaba Shirolekar.[6]

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[1] PRC, Vol II, L. 309.

[2] Ibid, L. 310.

[3] Ibid, L. 312, p. 443.

[4] Khare, Lekh Sangrah, Vol. 9. Ls. 3805, 3806.

[5] Gupta, Bajirao II and the East India Company, p. 8.

[6] Khare, op.cit., p. 4908.

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[1] Gupta, Op.cit., p. 9.
[2] Vaidya, Peshwa Bajirao II and the downfall of the Maratha Power, p. 36
[3] Khare, op.cit., L. 3812.
[4] Ibid, p. 4777.
[5] Ibid,
[6] Ibid, L. 3814,3809.

But due to moisty weather Nana did not stay at Raigad for a long time and came down to Pachad and Mahad.[1] The British had received a proposal from Nana in which it was proposed that they should assist Nana Phadnis with troops for setting up Bajirao as the Peshwa Bajirao on his accession would cede to the Company a territory worth 25,00,000 of rupees, and also grant the same amount in cash. Bajirao's Government would always maintain friendship with the English.[2] As a result of the negotiations conducted by Nana from Mahad, the fortress of Salsette was vacated by the British for Nana's residence. Through Malet, they started pressing Daulatrao Shinde not to molest Nana and leave him free to stay anywhere he pleased under their guarantee.[3] Nana Phadnis also negotiated with the Sidis of Janjira[4] and instigated the Raja of Kolhapur to occupy the districts of Chikodi and Manoli which were then in Parashuram Bhau's possession.[5] Through his agent Nana also concluded a treaty with the Nizam by which, the latter promised to help Nana with 15,000 men.[6]

A tempting bait had also been offered by Nana to Daulatrao Shinde, which ultimately resulted in the conclusion of an agreement between them. It was agreed that Shinde should arrest Baloba Tatya and his associates, and that he should also annihilate Parshuram Bhau and raise

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1. B.I.S.M. Aitihasik Sankirn Sahitya Khand, 5, p. 57.
2. Gupta, op.cit., p. 9.
3. Sardesai, Uttar Vibhag (Riyasat), III, p. 33.
4. Khare, op.cit., Vol. IX, L. 3812.
5. Sardesai, op.cit., Riyasat, p. 40.
6. Khare, op.cit., L. 4925.

Bajirao to the Mansad. It was further agreed that after consolidating Nana's position in the administration he should proceed to the North. For these services he should be paid by Nana Rs. 50 lakhs on his reaching Jamgaon and Rs. 50 lakhs after his crossing Godavari. In addition to this Shinde was promised the fort of Ahmednagar and a Jahgir of Rs. 10 lakhs in the south after Bajirao's accession.[1] Nana's wealth went a longway in winning over Holkar and the Huzurat to his side. All the parties with whom Nana had conspired from Mahad waited for the end of rainy season to make a move for effecting Nana's plan for the overthrow of Chimanaji and Bhau's Government. Soon after the Dasara at the end of October, Shinde suddenly arrested his minister Baloba Tatya.[2] Thus, having lost the support of his master, Baloba's power crumbled speedily. Now due to Nana's machinations, Holkar's army, Raghoji Bhosle and Mushir-u-Mulk marched with their troops to the Shaniwarwada to seize Bhau. But Parsharam Bhau Patwardhan got this news before hand. Therefore he took with him Peshwa Chimanaji. But he was intercepted and arrested and Chimanaji was brought to the Shinde's camp. Thereafter Shinde had directed Sarjerao Ghatge to bring Bajirao quickly to Poona. He had also written to Nana to come immediately to Poona and to assume the charge of the administration, assuring him of his good

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1. Ibid., p. 3845.
2. Ibid., p. 4924.

will. This brought Nana from Mahad to Poona on 25th November 1796. All these events, preceding Bajirao's accession, resulted in great insecurity and instability in the State.

Let us now turn to the affairs of Angrian family of Kolaba. After Manaji's death in 1756, Raghuji Angre his son, succeeded to the Sarkhelship. He paid the Peshwa a yearly tribute of Rs. 200,000 and held his land on military tenure furnishing a supply of troops. He frequently visited Poona, supported Nana Phadnis's schemes and took a keen interest in the welfare of the young Peshwa Sawai Madhavrao. Forbes who visited Alibag in 1771 found Raghoji living in the island fort of Kolaba and found Alibag pleasant and well-tilled.[1] He remained faithful to the Peshwa and in 1777 handed over the imposter of Sadashivrao Bhau to Nana, inspite of the fact that the English wanted the imposter in their custody.[2] We have also seen that the English had lodged several complaints to Poona and with the Angre about the depredations committed by Angre on the vessels of the merchants on the high seas.[3]

Raghuji died in 1793 leaving two minor sons, Manaji and Kanhoji by his wife Anandibai, and another called Jaysing by his concubine.[4] The Peshwa Government bestowed Sarkhelship

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1. Forbes, Oriental Memoirs, Vol. I, p. 213.
2. Secret and Political Department Vol. 18, pp. 45-46.
3. Ibid., Vol. 43 of 1793, pp. 76-80.
4. Ibid., Vol. 52 dated 30th July 1796, pp. 1220-22.

on infant Manaji and Jaysingh was allowed to act as his Karbhari during the latters minority.[1] But Anandibai, jealous of Jaysing's influence over her son, laid a plot for his destruction. In this, Jaysinghrao's Karbhari Balaji Pandurang was killed. Jaysingh was made captive and lodged in Kolaba. His partisans were captured and kept as prisoners at Khanderi. Jayasingh's wife Sakawarbai was also kept under house arrest. Sakawarbai surprisingly got herself released, went to Nagothana port and captured a fortress. From there she rose in open rebellion and started disturbances in the territory. Jayasingh also got himself released and went to Poona for getting protection.

Due to the war of succession between Jayasingh and Manaji, the administration remained in a confused condition. The Navy and Army men could not receive their salaries for some time. Therefore, in order to collect arrears of the pay they started looting the people in Kolaba. Thus riots broke out at Sribagpeth. But the loyal army quelled these riots ruthlessly and rioters' leaders were imprisoned and punished.[2]

The wife of Jaysing alongwith a child left Nagothana and came to Chaul at the feet of Goddess Ekvira Bhawani[3] (19 August 1798). On the 4th September 1796,

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1. Dhabu, Kulabkar Angre, p. 253.
2. Awalaskar, Angrekalin Ashtagar, 622, p. 85.
3. Ibid., p. 628.

Jaysing and Nagoji Angre marched with two thousand men to capture Alibag. Due to heavy rains the force could not make much advance. Therefore, Jaysingh made three divisions of his force. He himself headed one division and captured Alibag and keeping his people at Mandvi - established check posts.[1]

On 13th September Jaysing captured fort Hirakot and planted his flag over it.[2] On the 11th he took into his possession Sagargad. His wife joined him at Hirakot.[3] On 22nd September Fort Khanderi came into his possession. There Jaysing met his officers.[4] On 10th November 1796, Karbhari of Jaysing got hurt by the cannon ball and on 14th November 1797 he died of it.[5] On 16th December 1796, Jaysing defeated the rival army near Chaul.[6] Thereafter, Manaji with a few followers fled to Mahad and Anandibai died of frustration.[7]

Hearing that the Peshwa had promised to help Manaji, Jaysing applied for aid to Baburao, who was Shinde's Commander-in-Chief. Baburao was relative of Jaisingh. Baburao thought of gaining possession of Angre's affairs

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1. Awalaskar, Angrekalin Ashtagar, 630.
2. Ibid.,
3. Ibid., 632.
4. Ibid., 633.
5. Ibid., 635.
6. Ibid., 638.
7. Baburao was a son of Yesaji who was blinded by Manaji I in 1733. Bombay Presidency, Kolaba Gazetteer, p. 155.

and at once consented to the proposal of Jaysingh. Before going to Alibag, he arranged through Shinde that any attempt of his to gain possession of Kolaba would have the Peshwa's support.[1] With this understanding Baburao Angre got out for Alibag with five to seven hundred men and halted at Revdanda near the house of Madhavrao Phadke on 22nd January 1797.[2] Thereafter, on 13th February 1797 a battle between Jaysing and Baburao took place on the sea-shore between Akas and Sakhar in which Baburao was defeated.[3] Moreover, Jaysing and Manaji met each other at Kolaba on 6th March 1797.[4] But they could not arrive at an amicable settlement. In the meantime Jaysing came to know that Nagoji Angre became a treacherous insurgent and therefore, he was murdered by Jaysing on 19th August 1797. After four months Daulatrao Shinde despatched his general Haripant Bhave, with guns and four hundred horse for Baburao's help for capturing Kolaba. The force started from Poona and came to halt at Khandala.[5] After coming to Alibag with this force Baburao laid siege to Hirakot, the abode of Jaysing.[6] After some days Jaysing quietly escaped from the fort on one night and by swimming the creek came to Kolaba.

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[1] Bombay Presidency, Kolaba Gazetteer, p. 156.
[2] Awalaskar, Angrekalin Ashtagar, 639.
[3] Ibid., 640.
[4] Ibid., 642.
[5] Ibid., 645.
[6] Ibid.

Baburao took the fort of Hirakot and treacherously seized Manaji, Kanhoji and Jaysing.[1] Sakwarbai Angre, wife of Jaysing, once more came to her husband's help and captured the fort of Khanderi. In 1799 Manaji and Kanhoji had fled to Poona and returned with few followers. Baburao besieged Khanderi. A battle ensued and Baburao had to lose some men.[2] Again the battle took place between the forces of Baburao's and that of Manaji and Kanhoji at Chaul and at Nagothana. At both places Kanhoji and his brother Manaji were defeated and taken prisoners. Baburao who was now the undisputed master, was invested with the Chiefship by Peshwa Bajirao II. Soonafter, Baburao captured the forts of Kolaba, Hirakot, Sagargad and Manikgad except Khanderi.[3] But when he failed to capture Khanderi by assult from Jaysing's wife he promised to set Jaysing free if Sakwarbai gave the fort. Thereupon, Khanderi was handedover but instead releasing Jaysing, Baburao put him to death and threw his wife and children into prison. Jaysing's eldest son escaped to Bombay.[4] On 20th December 1799 Baburao Angre was invested with robes of Sarkhel at Kolaba.[5]

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1. *Bombay Presidency, Kolaba Gazetteer*, p. 156.
2. Awalaskar, *op.cit.*, 655.
3. *Ibid.*, 662.
4. *Kolaba Gazetteer*, p. 156.
5. Awalaskar, *op.cit.*, 663.

On 4th December 1796, Aba Shelukar who had been sent to Satara, returned to Poona with clothes of incestiture and the ceremony of elevating Baji Rao II to the Peshwaship took place at mid-night.[1] Thus, Bajirao's Government was established. In the new administration Nana Phadnis became the Prime Minister. Nana did not take much interest in the administration. In the later half of 1798 conditions in the Maratha State deteriorated fast. Wars between the Kolhapur Raja and Patwardhans, Gokhale and also the Chhatrapati raged in full fury. In October, 1798, an attempt was made by unknown assailants on the life of the Peshwa.[2] In the field of foreign affairs also things threatened to take a serious turn with the advent of Wellesley and with his manifestly aggressive intentions.

The last phase of Nana's administration began from the end of 1798. He came to know that plot was formed against him by Govindrao Kale and Sakharam Thate. They were arrested and the former was sent to Sinhgad and the latter to Konkan.[3] Thereafter, he avoided interfering in the affairs of the state as far as possible. In the year 1799 and 1800 nothing much important had happened except the death of Nana Phadnis on 13th March 1800.[4]

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[1] Forrest, State Papers, p. 545.
Gupta, Bajirao II, p. 13.

[2] Khare, op.cit., Vol. X, p.5559.

[3] Khare, op.cit., Vol. XI, Ls. 4635,4654.

[4] Ibid.

Nana Phadnis's death did not improve Bajirao's position. On the contrary Shinde's ambitious grip over the Poona administration was evident. He appointed Amritrao, Peshwa's step brother, as Peshwa's Karbhari in place of Nana Phadnis. In the meantime Sarjerao Ghatge became Shinde's Prime-minister. After the death of Nana Phadnis, Bajirao II too revenge on the persons who were Nana's Partisans. Naropant Chakradeo, Bajaba Shiralekar, Raghopant Godbole and two more imprisoned. They were despatched to Raigad and Pratapgad under the guard of Baloji Kunjar for safe custody. The renowned sardar Madhavrao Raste was also put under arrest on 10th October 1801 and sent to Raigad inspite of strong intention of the Karbharis for Raste's release.[1] Bajirao II arranged for Raste good food, his hair cut according to his wish and ordered the Killedar to look after Raste's health.[2] But Raste's children who were in Government custody at fort Korigad escaped from the prison about 15th November 1801. At this news the Peshwa got frightened and issued orders for their capture. The Peshwa also wrote to Baloji Kunjar who was in charge of Taluka Raigad to that effect.[3] The Peshwa thought that the disturbances and rebellions that flared y up in different parts of Maharashtra was due to disruptive and subversive activities of the followers of Nana Phadnis. So he issued orders for the capture of 11 persons including four sons of Haripant Phadke, Moroba Dada

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1. Khare, Lekh Sangraha, Vol. XII, L. 5617.
2. Ibid, Vol. XIII, Ls. 6166, 6168.
3. Peshwa Rojnishi, Bajirao II, p. 100.

Phadnis, Athavale of Madhavrao Raste and Bapu Phansalkar. All the 11 persons were lodged in the custody at Pal and Raigad.[1]

During the later half of 1800, the Peshwa was filled with anxiety because of increasingly widespread distrubances in the whole Maratha country. However, the English Resident at Poona had offered the Peshwa the proposal for a subsidiary alliance since July 1798.[2] It was renewed in 1799 after the war with Tipu was over. The negotiations were again commenced in April 1800. But the events did not shape as the English expected and the negotiations were closed. Further negotiations were began by the Governor-General in June 1802, but they did not receive adequate response from the Peshwa until September.[4] In September 1802, Holkar, after defeating the Peshwa's troops, came near Poona. On the eve of the fateful battle of Hadapsar, the Peshwa himself had not entertained any sanguine hopes of success against Holkar.[5] So on 27th September, Bajirao decided to run away with his retinne from Poona to Raigad. On the way to Raigad, Bajirao established

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1. *Peshwa Rojnishi*, pp.98, 99.
2. Khare, *Lekh Sangraha*, Vol XIV, L.6402.
3. Gupta, *op.cit.*, p.64
4. *Ibid.*, p.68.
5. Vaidya, *Peshwa Bajirao II and the downfall of the Maratha Power*, p.139
6. *Ibid.*, p.140.

a Dak by deputing Swar and gardis. On 8th October, the Peshwa sent to Raigad, Sawai Madhavrao Peshwa's Wife Yashodabai, his own wife and wife of Chimaji Appa. Immediately thereafter, Baloji Kunjar also sent his wife to Raigad.[1]

Before the Commencement of battle on 25th October 1802 at Hadpasar, Bajirao had signed and executed an instrument (Sanad) of cession for the proposed *Jaidad* in favour of the British and at the time of marching out for battle he sent it to Resident Col. Close with his adherent Raghunathrao Dhaudde Bhagwat.[2] This instrument did not contain the names of any districts to be ceded but Governor General gave his consent to this instrument and delivered it Resident to close on October 25th, 1802. Thus, the Peshwa had infact concluded a defensive alliance with the British Government.[3] Before leaving Poona in the direction of Konkan, Bajirao signed a declaration expressing his intention to seek asylum in the Company's territory should Holkar send a force to the place where he would take refuge. This made very clear the intention of Bajirao to seek protection from the English Government.[4] On 25th October Yashwantrao

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1. Khare, *Lekh Sangraha*, Vol. XIV, Ls.6446, 6445,6460
2. *Poona Residency Correspondence* Vol.X,intriduction,p.X
3. *Ibid*., p.XI.
4. *Ibid*., Peshwa to Duncan, Governor of Bombay received at Bombay on November 4, 1802.

Holkar won victory against Shinde and the Peshwa's force at Hadapsar, None of Bajirao's chiefs lost their life, as they like him, ran away to a place of safety. Bajirao and Chimaji Appa prodeeded towards Parvati from the battlefield but seeing Holkar's men arriving in pursuit, Bajirao fled and came at the fort of Sinhgad.[1] On 27th October, Bajirao and Chimnaji Appa fled from Sinhgad and came to Birwadi, a village in Mahad Taluka of Kolaba District. Both of them stayed at Birwadi from 29th October to 4th November 1802,[2] with two to three thousand force. Alongwith Bajirao who fled from Poona included prominant persons such as Baloji Kunjar, Nimbaji Bhaskar, Daji Pant Deshmukh, Yashwant and Bhivrao Panse of artillery incharge, Biniwale, Boopram Chaudhari, Manohargir Gosavi, Khanderao Raste, Balwantrao Nagnath. All these persons left Sinhgad and through Medhe ghat via Anna Chatra came to Mahad and thereafter reached Raigad. On 28th October, Holkar despatched his force of about 12 to 15 thousand to seize fleeing Bajirao. Also he came to know that the British were determined to prevent Peshwa's seizure by his forces. Holkar did not give up chasing Bajirao by his force in Konkan because of the threat of British interference.[3] At Bajwadi Bajirao

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1. Sardesai, *N.H.M.* ,Vol.III,p.374
2. Khobrekar, *Marathyanche Swaryenche Mukkam,* p438.
3. Khare, *op.cit.*, Vol.XIV,Ls.6465,6470,6473,6474,6511

stayed in the big wada of Govind Joshi. The force with him went through the gallis of Birwadi and looted the houses of the villagers and destroyed the grain fields.[1] On 30th October 1802, the Peshwa wrote from Birwadi[2] the following letter to Jonathan Duncan, Governor of Bombay :- "My servants Holkar and his party are carrying intrigues and wrongs against me, Much alarmed at their base conduct I have resolved to seek an alliance with your Honour on condition that should any of these rebels demand my person, it should be positively denied. Nor must your Honour tell me to go. Should this propositions meet with your approbation, you must make provision for my expenses. Also be pleased to furnish me large armed vessels in the harbour of Mahad. For further particulars on this head I refer your Honour to the bearer Naro Govind Avty".[3] With Holkars men pursuing him, the Peshwa from Mahad went to Raigad and released Madhavrao Raste from the Prison. Immediately on release, Madhavrao Raste took upon him the work of administering Raigad fort by setting aside the Havaldar of the fort.[4] Afterwards, the Peshwa instructed Raste to go to Karnatak to guard against Holkar establishing his sway in that part of the country.[5]

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[1] Vaidya, op.cit., p. 141.

[2] Awalaskar, Raigad, p. 175.

[3] Sardesai, N.H.M., Vol. III,p.379. P.R.C. Vol.X.,p.37.

[4] Khare,Op.cit., Vol.XVI,L.6490. However Peshwa's itinerary does not show his halt at Raigad. It shows that the Peshwa was at place Mahad from 5th to 24th Nov.1802 (See- Khobrekar, Mukkam, p. 438).

[5] Khare, op.cit., Vol. XIV, L.7605,Vol. XIII, L. 7457

While the Peshwa was at Raigad Holkar's sardar Haripant Bhave reached in the vicinity at Raigad on 22nd November 1802 with force of one thousand gardis.[1] Immediately after Bhave Holkar sardar Meerkahan Pathan descended from the ghat with 4 to 6 thousand force and was advancing to Mahad in pursuit of Bajirao.[2] This news alarmed Bajirao. He sent back a large part of his retinue 800 paga force, Vinchurkar, Mane, Khajagiwale etc.,to Poona. He kept Gopal Kunjar and Naroba Nana Avati with 400 men at Raigad.[3] and himself proceeded with considerable force in a southern direction and halted at a small fort called Harnai on the sea side near Suvarnadurg.[4] But the arrival there of the troops of Holkar's Lieutenant Shahmat Khan Pathan forced him to leave that place. On 1st December 1802, the Peshwa boarded his own vessel while *Herculean* and *Antelope*, the British ships, proceeded with him as a convoy to that place.[5]

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1. *Ibid.*, Vol.XIII, L.7457.
2. *Ibid.*, Vol XIV, L.6503
3. Khare, *op.cit.*, Vol.XIV, L.6512
4. *P.R.C.*, Vol.X, L.35, p. 50.
5. See. & Pol. Dept. Diary, No.13, pp.7373-7381, Capt. Kennedy's letter to Bombay.

The British supplied a sum of two lakhs of rupees to Bajirao to meet his personal needs. Khanderao Raste, then the Peshwa's Chief Officer in Konkan came and paid him his respects at Survarnadurg and helped him with his advice. To keep Bajirao in good humour the British Government instructed the British ships and the local agent on the coast to honour Bajirao with salutes and gunfire. This was done to please Bajirao. The ship with Bajirao on board halted at his request at Ravedanda for two days and reached Bassein on 6th December. He was at that time in an extremely uncomfortable and hlepless state. Resident Close who had left poona on 28th November came and met the Peshwa at Bassein on 7th December, 1802.[2]

As the news of the Peshwa's arrival at Bassein reached Poona, Amritrao promptly appointed Subha Killedar for Bassein. He was directed to proceed to Bassein without loss of time with detachment of cavalry, infantry with guns, with a view to seizing the Peshwa.[3] The British ascrtained that the new Subha Killedar of Bassein, Balwantrao Panse had descended the Ghat with his force and gave directions for their detachment at Ghodbandar to move to Bassein[4] In the middle of December, a force was sent by Holkar to Suvarnadurg. The Peshwa's Subhedar of that place was

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1. Sardesai, N.H.M., Vol.III, p.380
2. Khare, op.cit, Vol.XIV, pp.7575, 7461.
3. P.R.C. Vol VII, p.28
3. Bombay secret & Political Dept.Diary, No.130, p.7015
4. P.R.C. Vol, X, 29th Jan 1803, p.70

captured and sent to Poona.[1] The family of the Peshwa, left at Suvarnadurg, was removed to the town of Harnai and placed under the charge of Holkar's cavalry. They were later on escorted to Poona.[2]

British came to know that the stationing of their detachment at Bassein was viewed by Holkar as an act of opposition. Therefore, the British detachment was ordered to be posted at Ghodbandar or Salsette from where it might be readily conveyed across the water, as occasion might require, for the Peshwa's support. Accordingly, the British detachment occupied the position at Salsette and an armed vessel was stationed at Bassein with a view of affording further communications and security to Peshwa Bajirao II.[3] On 18th December, Resident Close had an interview with the Peshwa at which the proposed stipulations for a definitive treaty were fully discussed. The Peshwa, at the end, assented verbally to the stipulations contained in the draft of the treaty prepared by the British.[4] In the meantime the Poona Council decided to give Amritrao's son Vinayakrao in adoption to Yashodabai and make him the Peshwa. But that lady was strictly confined by Bajirao at Raigad and Holkar's force failed to extricate and fetch her to Poona.[5]

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1. P.R.C.Vol.X, p.36
2. Ibid., p.39
3. Ibid., pp.63-64
4. Ibid., p. 65.
5. Khare, op.cit, Vol XIV, Ls.6524, 6525

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Yashwantrao Holkar, apprised of what was passing at Bassein, offered to go there himself and meet the Peshwa all alone warning him against any unilateral commitment. Bajirao refused to see him.[1] However, the British felt that the Peshwa might proceed to Broach to join Shinde feared that the proposed alliance might have, for ever, slipped away from their hands. It was apparently at this stage that Resident Close threatened the Peshwa that the British would sign the alliance with Amritrao and Holkar if the Peshwa refused to do so.[2] Thereupon, must reluctantly, the Peshwa gave his consent to sign the treaty[3] as he did not want British to get an opportunity to conclude the alliance with Amritrao. This treaty was signed, sealed and delivered on 31st December 1802. This treaty gave the British Government unquestionable supremacy over the Maratha States and paved the way towards an Indian Empire.[4] Its main stipulations were:-

(1) The two contracting parties agree that the friends and the enemies of the one should be treated as the friends and the enemies of the other.

(2) That the British should protect Bajirao's territory as their own.

(3) For this purpose a subsidiary force of not less than

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[1] Sardesai, *N.H.M.*, III, p.383

[2] Choksey, *A History of the British Diplomacy at the Court of the Peshwas* (1786 to 1818), p.324

[3] Bombay Sec. and Pol. Diary, No.135 dt.21 January 1803, p.369.

[4] Gupta, *op.cit.*, p.70

6000 regular infantry with the usual proportion of field artillery, should be permanently stationed in Bajirao's dominions.

(4) For the expense of this force Bajirao should cede to the British, districts yielding 26 lakhs of rupees a year.

(5) The Peshwa was not to entertain in his service any European hostile to the English.

(6) In case of a dispute arising with the Nizam, Bajirao should accept British arbitration.

(7) Bajirao should also respect the treaty of friendship recently contracted by the Gaikwad with the English and accept British arbitration in case of a dispute.

(8) The British and Bajirao should give each other more military help whenever necessary.

(9) The Peshwa binds himself to engage in no hostilities with other states without previous consultation with the British Government.[1]

On conclusion of this treaty, Close wrote to Holkar the British decision of taking the Peshwa to Poona and said "you have all along been friendly to the British power, do preserve that sentiment by qutting Poona"[2]. Thus Holkar was asked by the British immediately to retire to his own territory in Malwa. The British directed

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1. This agreement was ratified by the Governor General on 18th March 1803. Sardesai N.H.M. Vol II, p.384, Sec. & Pol. Dept. Diary, No.134,pp.52-88 List of territories ceded to the British by the Peshwa is found in this Diary.
2. P.R.C. Vol. VII,.p.44.

Troubles in South Konkan:

Jivba Dada Kerkar, supportor of Khem Sawant, died on 6th January 1796. The British were busy in liquidating Tipu Sultan in battle with him in 1798-99. At this time in October 1798, joint forces of Kolhapur and the Portuguese attacked Sawantwadi. They created havoc in Sawantwadi territory. In the encounter at Avalegaon, Khem Sawant's forces under Chandra Farzad inflected a defeat on them on 25th October 1798. Chandra Farzad fought valiently. In approciation of his valour Khem Sawant appointed him as a permanent Sardar.[1] Thereafter, Khem Sawant ruled his territory peacefully till his death on 6th October 1803. He had four daughters and no son. On the eve of his death Khem Sawant entrusted the gadi to the care of his wife Laxmibai. Two members of Sawant's family, Som Sawant and Sriram Sawant, were quarreling for the gadi. Each had a desire that Laxmibai should adopt his son as mail heir and continue to administer Sawantwadi.

In order to gain his object, Som Sawant decided to imprison Laxmibai and Durgabai. He deputed his son Phond Sawant to Redi and asked him to gather people and bring them to Sawantwadi to help him to capture the palace. As decided before, Som Sawant[2] took possession of the palace and waited

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1. Pingulkar, A History of Sawantwadi, p.92.
2. Mhamai, The Sawantwadi and the Portuguese, p.126; But Pingulkar gives the date of Khem Sawant's death as 25th September 1803. see History of Sawantwadi by Pingulkar, p.97.

Colonel Murray to accompany Bajirao with his detachment to Poona via Kalyan which was still occupied by a party belonging to Amritrao.[1] Thereafter General Wellesley was to regulate Bajirao's march to Poona.[2] Arthur Wellesley asked the Adjutant General of the Army to secure the march of the Peshwa from Bassein to Poona and to open the communication with the coast. Wellesley wanted to receive Bajirao in person below the Ghat.[3]

Bajirao himself accompanied by close came to Poona on 13th March 1803. His restoration was celebrated by the British with every distinction of Military honour and public rejoicing.[4] Thus the Peshwa bartered away the Maratha independence from Bassein.

British gains South Konkan:

After the installation of Bajirao on the Peshwa's mansad, he started taking vengeance on the Maratha Chiefs by ordering reduction in their armies. Bajirao sent his force against the Killedar of Suvarndurg, Hari Balhal Kerkar. But the Maratha force sastained a defeat from the Killedar. Thereafter, a small British force was encamped at Kelshi, eight miles north of Suvarndurg.[5] Due to the machination of the British, the fort was surrendered without resistance.[6]

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1. Ibid., Vol. X, L.51, p.94.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid., L.52.
4. Martin, Despatches and correspondence of M.Wellesley, Vol.III, p.136; Vaidya, Bajirao II, p.160.
5. Kolhapur Niwadi, Rumal 2, Pudka 3, Document 323.
6. Nairne, Konkan, p.111.

for help from Redi, which he did not get in time. In the meanwhile Shriram Sawant who was away from the capital came to know Som Sawant's action. Therefore, Shriram Sawant gathered the force and attacked Som Sawant and defeated him. Som Sawant was now forced with his family in the siege laid down by Shriram. Finding that there was no way to come out from the palace, all members of the family of Som Sawant got burnt to death to escape torture at the hands of his victorious rival. This incident took place on 16th April 1804, when Phond Sawant was away in Redi.[1]

Phond Sawant, the surviving son of Som Sawant, now appealed to Kolhapur to save his life and take him away. Thereupon, Kolhapur Raja agreed to help him and deputed his sardar Ratnakar Appa Rajanya to Malwan who went to fort Redi and brought Phond Sawant with him to Kolhapur.[2] After the rainy season Kolhapur forces came down to the Konkan and took possession of Kudal and the forts of Narsingad, Bharatgad and Nivati. At this time Phond Sawant as well as the Raja of Kolhapur[3] were in touch with the Government of Goa to safeguard their interest. But the Portuguese pretended to be the defender of none as the discard among them was beneficial to Goa. At this time, fearing that Kolhapur might oversum the entire kingdom, Laxmibai agreed to recognise Phond Sawant as the successor of her late husband[4]

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1. Pingulkar, op.cit., pp.98-99.
2. Kolhapur Niwadi Daftar, Rumal 2, Pudka 3, Document 297.
3. Shirodkar, Kolhapur-Portuguese Relations, (Marathi), L.46.
4. Pingulkar, op.cit., p.99.

However, Phond Sawant was not destined to rule Sawantwadi for long. In 1805, his powerful rival Shriram Sawant came with a large force and attacked him. Phond Sawant fled to Kudal. The victorious Shriram Sawant campelled Rani Laxmibai to adopt his son Ramchandra, who became the ruler of Sawantwadi after adoption. Meanwhile, Phond Sawant who was at Kudal got help from Kolhapur. After Dasara of that year (1805) Kolhapur Sardar Ratnakarpant Rajadya came upon Bharatgad and captured it. Then he advanced to Nandos where he met with stiff opposition from Ramchandra Khanvilkar.[1] Rani Laxmibai's sardar Khanvilkar captured Nandos and thereafter with his troops he captured Nivati and Yashwantgad and then laid siege against Bharatgad. At this time, Laxmibai made plea to Kolhapur not to interfere in their domestic affairs[2]. But it had no effect.

Kolhapur Raja came down to Konkan and wrested from Laxmibai the forts of Bharatgad and Narisingad and the territory annexed was estimated to yield annually a lakh of Rupees.[3] At this time Goa Government was approached for help. So the Goa Viceroy passed orders to respective commandments to help the widow of Khem Sawant.[4] This had no effect on the Kolhapur force. Thereafter, the victorious Kolhapur force

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1. Pingulkar, op.cit., p.101.
2. Kolhapur Niwadi Rumal 10, Pudka 2, Document 327.
3. P.R.C.,Vol.VII, L.267, p.361.
4, Shrodkar, op.cit., L.47.

surrended Sawantwadi.[1] But at this time some thing happened which compelled Kolhapur Shivaji to lift the siege and make haste to his own capital.[2] In a cleverly timed deplomatic manoeuvre, Laxmibai had managed to enlist the help of Appa Desai despatched a whole regiment of 100 Arabs mercenaries to Laxmibai's aid and one Vishwasrao Ghatge. To face this attack Kolhapur had to pull back this forces and return to Kolhapur[3] (April 18th 1807).

In the next year (1808), Appa Desai's troops came down to Konkan and occupied the fort of Redi. Thereafter, they went to Wadi and took Ramchandra Sawant and his Prime minister as prisoners in July 1808.[4] The Wadi chief sought British aid against Desai.[5] In the year 1809, Phond Sawant, the new Wadi chief, was defeated by Mansing Patankar, the Kolhapur general; he was pursued and his lands laid waste as far north as Rajapur. In 1810 the Kolhapur forces were again forced to leave Konkan and Redi and Nivati fell into the Sawant's hands.[6]

During the year 1793 to 1811, the whole of the South Konkan was in possession of the Wadi State. As a consequence of the treaty of Bassein in 1802 with the Peshwa, an English fleet, on behalf of the Peshwa, took in 1803 the fort of Suvarndurg from one of his officers. This we have already stated previously.

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1. Garge, Karveer Riyasat, p.286.
2. Ibid., p.287.
3. P.R.C., Vol.VII, L.267.
4. Sec.& Pol.Dept. Diary No.243, pp.9699-9700.
5. Ibid., pp.9644-46.
6. Maharashtra State Gazetteers, Ratnagiri, p.124.

Piracy harrased British trade so much so that the marine Superintendent suggested to the Bombay Government measures to blockade Malwan and Redi in October 1802.[1] The same proposal was renewed by the Marine Superintendent on 4th October 1802 for Government sanction.[2] Bombay Government wrote to the Governor-General on 30th October about measures taken against piratical fleet of Malwan, Redi and Beyt.[3] As the British were engussed in convincing Peshwa Bajirao to accept their terms and enter into treaty of defensive alliance with them, no stricter action seems to have been taken by them except blockading the piratical ports of Malwan, Redi, Suvarnadurg and Bassein once in a year till 1812.[4] As Malwan was under the control of the Kolhapur Raja, there are numerous references in Kolhapur Niwadi and Parasnis records regarding complaints lodged by the British Government demanding compensation for the goods taken over by the pirates from the British trading ships from Malwan and Redi.[5] To redress the grievances of the British, Kolhapur Raja tried his best and one time ordered one Shivram Sheth Athanikar to carry away the English boats and Fattamaries captured by him to Bombay and to give them to the possession of Bombay Government.[6] Another order was sent to Madhavrao Gaikwad incharge of fort Sindhudurg not to molest British ships.[7] The Kolhapur Raja's warning to his naval ships

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1. Sec.& Pol. Dept.Diary No.127, pp.5338-5345.
2. Ibid., Diary No.129, pp.6089-90.
3. Ibid., pp.6276-6286.
4. Sec. & Pol.Dept.Diary No.151, pp.7474-7484; Ibid., No.147, pp.5807-5808; Diary No.220, of 1808, pp.4-6.
5. Kolhapur-Niwadi Rumal 11, Pudka 11, document 510.
6. Kolhapur-Niwadi Rumal 27, Pudka 3, document 893.
7. Ibid., Document 894.

had a desired effect as can be seen that on receipt of Chattrapati's orders Nivati Mamalatdar returned the British trading ships to them.[1] Thus we find numerous documents in the Marathi Daftar at Kolhapur Record Office about the capture of trading ships at the ports of Malwan, Nivati and Redi. The remedy adopted was the blockade of the ports belonging to Kolhapur and Wadi as stated before. The Kolhapur Raja's promises had proved worthless. The British were convinced that unless they held some forts and the harbour near Malwan, there was no safety for British trade. The British got the opportunity while settling the disputed matters between the Peshwa and Kolhapur, on 13th October 1812. During the negotiations, the British suggested to the Raja to cede Malwan to them which was agreed to by the latter and the Peshwa.[2] Accordingly Kolhapur Raja ceded to the British the fort of Sindhudurg and the island of Malwan and its dependencies.[3] At the same time, the British got possession of the fort of Vengurla from Rani Laxmibai, acting regent of the Wadi State.[4] The Wadi state bound itself to put down piracy to pass duty free all articles required by the British troops and on their paying customary duty to allow British merchants a free passage to and from the Wadi State. The reason for the treaty was the disorder in Sawantwadi which led to piracy and grave danger to British commerce.[5] Soon after the conclusion of the treaty, Phond Sawant died.

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[1] P.R.C., Vol.XII, L.94.
[2] Ibid.
[3] Choksey, The Malwan Residency (1812-1819), pp.1-18.
[4] Ibid., p.23.
[5] Ibid., Introduction, p.ii.

On the conclusion of the treaty with Kolhapur Raja, Elphinstone got orders of their surrender of Malwan and the annexed forts from the Kolhapur Raja which he forwarded to Lieutenant Colonel Smith.[1]

The British acknowledged the possession of Sindhudurg, Rajkot and Padmadurg to the Raja of Kolhapur. At the same time we also notice of an agreement made by the British with the Kolhapur Raja for receiving compensation by the British ships who suffered at the hands of pirates in the Malwan port.[2] The British also posted the 2nd Battalion of the 7th Regiment under the command of Major Webbs. In the agreement none of the guns or stores belonging to the fort Sindhudurg were transferred to the British and the Raja's people were allowed to take them away at their own convinience.[4] Lieutenant Colonel Smith took charge of the Sindhudurg fort and territory around it from the Raja of Kolhapur. Smith made a report to Governor of Bombay on the general state of Malwan, Vengurla and Nivti.[5] In his report Smith stressed the military importance of these places and recommended that the Resident be installed to look after the company's new acquisition and to keep vigilance on the conduct of the Rani of Sawantwadi.[6] The Supreme Government

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1. P.R.C., Vol.XII, Ls.96, 96a.
2. Kolhapur Niwadi Rumal 48, Pudka 1, Document 7515.
3. Ibid., Documents 7348-7349, 7438-7439.
4. P.R.C., Vol. XII, L.96 a
5. Pol. Department Diary No.386, pp.1516-1541.
6. Ibid., pp.1576-1580.

approved the deputation of Lt. Col. Smith and his report. The new possession acquired by the company was made dependent on the presidency of Bombay and requested Bombay Government to make arrangement of the Civil Administration and Military defence of Malwan and Vengurla.[1] A native Agent was appointed to reside at Nivati for the purpose of examining all vessels which might sail from that port. Finally, the Bombay Government was ordered to receive instructions in the management of this territory from the Poona Resident M. Elphinstone.[2] Accordingly, on the 25th January 1813, J.J.Sparrow was appointed the first British Resident of Malwan and its dependencies including the cessions made by the Sawantwadi Raja.[3] The Bombay Governor received a report from the In-charge of Sindhudurg about the military importance of various ports in that part, Vengurla as a port and its defence, and military arrangements for the defence of the newly occupied territories. Finally, the report speaks of the crops grown, the revenue collected and the general condition of the ceded districts.[4]

Thereafter, the petty state of Wadi continued to give pin pricks to the British. Rani Durgabai, had seized the forts of Bharatgad and Narsingad, which some few years before had been wrested from Sawantwadi by Kolhapur. The British had in the meanwhile, guaranteed to defend the Kolhapur territory[1] against all attacks. Knowing this Durgabai obstinately refused to give up the forts. Therefore, a British force under Colonel Dowse recaptured them and restored them to Kolhapur.[2] During the hostility of the Rani of Sawantwadi to Kolhapur, the British as an ally of the Kolhapur were compelled to take possession of the districts of Malandi and Varad by force.[3] The British also made efforts to revive friendly relations by proposing new terms of settlements through the envoy at Goa. The British fearing the security of their newely acquired scattered territory, requested Rani for the resettlement of their possessions by exchange of districts. The Rani turned down these proposals. The British were determined to hold out in the face of open or concealed hostility of the Rani. Moreover, the British aware that in future hostility with the Rani was unavoidable.[4] The British also noticed that the Rani's officials gave constant trouble to the collector at Malwan regarding collection of revenue in the territories ceded to the East India Company.[5] On this time the Supreme Government also asked the Bombay Government to take precautions and guard against any attempt of Sawantwadi State to invade British territory.[6] The Rani also claimed her right

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[1] Ibid., pp.1576-78.
[2] Ibid., p.1578, para 7.
[3] Choksey, Malwan Residency, L.2.
[4] Ibid., L.1.

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1. Kolhapur claimed these two forts from the British
   Pol.Dept.Diary No.424, pp.2163-67.
2. P.R.C.,XII, L.92.
3. Choksey, op.cit., L.9.
4. Ibid., L.6.
5. Ibid.
6. Ibid., L.8.

to levy duties in the Karli River[1] and the customs of Nandose.[2] So the Bombay Council directed the Resident at Malwan to exclude Rani from all participation in the collection of duties or other acts of soverignty within Varad, Malandi and Vengurla Districts.[3] In 1814 the Rani imprisioned the Clerk and Jasood of the envoy of Goa.[4] The Supreme Government at Calcutta took a serious view of the Rani's action.[5] In October of 1815, the Rani released the Karkoon of the envoy at Goa. By this time the British Government had engaged in dispute with the Peshwa; so it was decided by the Bombay Government" to avoid all participation in the disputes of Sawantwadi". In Sawantwadi itself the Rani was surrounded by intrigues of her own sardars, especially one Chandroba, who constantly sought British aid and shelter in his disputes with Durgabai. The Malwan Resident also found Rani having secret correspondence with the Poona Darbar. Complaints poured in of the Rani taking advantage of the complications between the British and the Court of Poona.[6] On the 20th November 1817, the British Resident at Malwan was informed of the Peshwa's defeat and the annexation of his dominions. On the 16th December 1817 the Malwan Resident was directed to take possession of the Peshwa's share of the Districts partially ceded to the British

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1. *Ibid.*, p.37.
2. *Ibid.*, p.39.
3. Ibid., L. 10.
4. Ibid., L. 13.
5. Ibid., L. 22.
6. Pol. Dept.Diary No.435, pp.637-641, 675 and pp.898-902.

Government in the neighbourhood of Malwan. On the 4th April 1818, the Malwan Resident informed the Government of Bombay that the British were in possession of all the Peshwa's territories in Konkan[1] and informed the Government of the aggressive attitude of the Sawantwadi. Rani also made preparations to face the eventuality.[2] She was also found intriguing with the Nipani Chief. In December 1818, the Bombay Government decided to take action against Sawantwadi.[3] In a letter of 15th December 1818, the Bombay Government framed its charges against Sawantwadi. Major General Sir William Grant Keir was placed in command of the Army of invasion. The British force entered the Sawantwadi and occupied it. On 17th February 1819 Sir W. Grant Keir concluded a treaty with Sawantwadi.[4] The terms of the treaty put an end to all fears in that quarters and secured Bombay Government mastry of Konkan.

Earlier we have already mentioned that Bajirao II accepted British protection at Bassein and he was carried through North Konkan to Poona by the British for restoring him to Peshwaship in early 1803. We shall now give a brief account of the main events that took place elsewhere in North Konkan since the accession of Baburao Angre to his Sarkhelship in 1799.

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1. This was done according to Elphinstone's directive vide P.D.Diary No.455, pp.5558-60.
2. Pol. D.Diary No.456, pp.5983-87.
3. Choksey, Malwan Residency, Ls. 62, 81.
4. Ibid. L.81.

Baburao Angre succeeded to the Sarkhelship in 1799 and his career lasted up to 1813. During this period general peace and tranquility prevailed in Kolaba except some minor incidents such as: the Angre Government would capture a boat, the English would protest first and then capture a boat of the Kolaba government, this would be followed by another protest and counterprotests and finally both the parties would release all the boats of each other.[1] In 1803 the Kolaba fleet captured an English ship. On protest it was released by the Angre and the English warned the Angre that his armed boats would be captured by the Bombay Marine in future.[2]

Sakwarbai, wife of Jaysing, was at Khanderi fort with his son on 12 August 1800. She wrote to the English at Bombay about her pitiable position. She complained that Baburao Angre for the last four years was persecuting her and her sons and hence she looked to the British for help. She also deputed her son and one Sardar Appajirao Chawan to Bombay for procuring English help for release of three Sardars who were in Baburao's custody.[3] Baburao also tried to buy from the English their neutrality in the matter with a request to forbid completely all intercourse between Bombay and Khanderi.[4] At this time Raghunath Angre, son of Tulaji Angre, assured the

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1. Sec.and Pol. Dept.Diary No.93/1800, pp.2968-70; Diary 98, pp.5478-80; Diary 106, pp.1219-21.
2. Sec. and Pol. Dept. Diary 145, pp.4489-92.
3. Sec. and Pol. Dept. Diary No.98/1800, pp.5478-80.
4. Ibid., 100/1800, pp.5920-22.

British his help to them against the Peshwa at the time of war between them and remained in Bombay under British protection.[1] This was resented by Baburao Angre who told the British that he would blockade the Khanderi Island and would capture the place by assault.[2] Accordingly Baburao Angre took possession of Khanderi Island by assault on 29 October 1800.[3] Appaji Chawan servant of the Angre imprisoned Jaisingh's family which was in the fort and assassinated the wife of Jaisingh.[4] Thereafter, Baburao went to Poona to help Shinde's forces against Holkar. When Bajirao ran to Mahad from Poona, Baburao met Bajirao at Revdanda and tried to dissuade him from throwing himself into the British arms.[5] Bajirao did not listen to him and therefore, Baburao returned to Poona. Amritrao was installed as a Peshwa in Poona on 12th November 1802. Thereafter, Holkar's forces looted Poona to collect funds for meeting the expenses of the soldiers. In this frenzy, Baburao Angre's camp at Poona was plundered and every thing was carried away.[6] So Baburao returned to Kolaba from the fortress of Manikgad.[7]

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1. Ibid., pp.6091-93.
2. Ibid., pp.6552-57.
3. Shrivastava, The Angreys of Kolaba in British Records, p.196, item 482.
4. Sec. and Pol. Dept. Diary 105, pp.35-40.
5. Sardesai, N.H.M., III, p.383.
6. Rajwade, M.I.S., Vol.3, p.521.
7. Angre Shakavali in Kulabkar Angre, p.137.

In the next year Baburao had to face a revolt of one Bacha Sonar, resident of Revdanda. Bacha Sonar and Gopal Pant Joglekar went to Karanja from Bombay and collected the people. They carried raids on two villages near Manikgad and plundered them. Baburao came to know that these people were instigated by Murarjee Angre who was under Company's protection. Therefore, he deputed his Vakil to the English at Bombay requesting them to handover Muraraji and Gopal Pant who were at Karanja.[1]

Major General Wellesley informed Baburao Angre that in May 1803 the English forces captured fort Karnala in the territory of Angre and gave it to the possession of the Peshwa. He also asked Baburao to drive out the Bandits who were swarming round the fort.[2]

After reinstating Bajirao at Poona in 1803 the English Residency and the subsidiary forces stationed at Poona were getting supplies from the harbours in the possession of the Angre. So the British did not want to drive Baburao Angre into hostility. However, they passed a resolution to have at least Angres' country in their possession and for that purpose they asked the higher authorities to induce the Peshwa to make a cession of Angre's territory to the Hon'ble Company.[3] So the British move to acquire Konkan territory was afoot from 1803.

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1. Sec. and Pol. Dept. Diary 140, pp.2041-42.
2. Forrest, Maratha Series, Vol. I, p.599.
3. Sec. and Pol.Dept.Diary 149, pp.6484-86.

Bachhashet Sonar was helped by Murarrao Angre, Mahimaji and Ramaji Angre. All these insurgents collected arms and ammunition with the help of the English at Bombay and attacked Kolaba. They gathered their forces at harbour Mandve. From there they pounced on Kolaba. Because of this sudden flare up Baburao Angre got baffled and went to Manikgad for shelter.[1] On information from Baburao the English despatched naval ships to Kolaba.[2] The rebels captured fort Hirakot and they were about to attack Kolaba. At this time Parsharam Shridhar Biwalkar, Killedar of Khanderi came to Kolaba and took the lead to save Baburao and the rayot from this aggression. He induced to his side Jamadar Ramrajkar Fattekhan, a confident of Bachhaji Sonar, by giving him one lakh rupees. Jamadar Fattekhan agreed to hand over the rebels to Angre government. Accordingly, Angre force attacked fort Hirakot where insurgents had gathered. The battle ensued and Manaji Angre fled away to Bombay. Bachhashet, Mahimaji Angre, Ramaji Angre were made captives.[3] Except Ramaji, the three were beheaded. Ramaji Angre was put to death by flinging him from Sagargad in 1807.[4] Thus peace and tranquility was brought to the Angrian territory.

Thereafter, Baburao Angre, had a peaceful life till his death on 16th August 1813. Raghuji Angre succeeded him

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1. P.R.C., Vol. VII, L.211.
2. Ibid., L. 216.
3. Ibid., L. 222.
4. Dhabu, op.cit., pp.262-263.

on 18th December 1817.[1] During this period Trimbakji Dengle, murderer of Gangadhar Shastri of Baroda, was imprisoned at Thana on 26th September 1815. He was kept under the guard composed entirely of Europeans according to the orders of Governor General.[2] Trimbakji's guards were all Europeans and did not know the Marathi language. Trimbakji was given one room for his residence on the upper storey of a building of the fort, the ground floor of which was used as stables. A clever Maratha Syce selected by Bajirao took up service with one of the English officers. These Syces while grooming the horses usually sing some tunes. This particular Syce communicated through his songs the way of escape to Trimbakji Dengle, the prisoner. Bajirao had made arrangement about the horses. European guards did not suspect any mischief in these Marathi songs. On the evening of 12th September 1816 Dengle and the Syce disappeared in the darkness and rode through Jungles to North Khandesh.[3] Under the pressure from Elphinstone, the Peshwa issued proclamation and a reward for his arrest.[4] On the 6th June 1817 the Peshwa was forced to conclude a fresh treaty with the British. This treaty is known as Treaty of Poona. Some months before this Treaty of Poona was entered into, four hordes of Pendharis swept from the Deccan to plunder the Konkan. They went as far as Asheri and Tarapur.[5] After the rains in November 1817 the Peshwa

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1. Ibid.
2. P.R.C.,XII, L. 190.
3. Ibid., XIII, L. 18.
4. John Briggs's Memoirs, pp.44-45.
5. Nairne, Konkan, p.113.

openly declared war with the English and let loose on the Konkan Trimbakji Dengle's hordes of Bhils and Rameshis. In December the Peshwa was close to the Nane Pass. The British took measures to prevent his entering into the Konkan. In January 1818 Colonel Prother with his force took the important forts of Karnala, Rajmachi and Koari.[1] The acquisition of the north Konkan was completed by Captain Barrow's Victory near Kusur pass over a body of Arabs, Musalmans and Kolis.[2] Thana was maintained as a military station. This success was achieved by the English under the immediate orders of the Government of Bombay with in adequate force at their command. This was noticed by M. Elphinstone and he praised the Bombay Government in his letter to the Governor General of India.[3] He also recommended that the settlement of the Konkan be done by the Governor-in-Council of Bombay[4] and suggested that northern Konkan be annexed to the Bombay Presidency under the authority of Government of Bombay.[5] The Governor General heartily approved Elphinstone's proposal for the consolidation of British administration by giving his assent to the annexation of the whole of Konkan to the Presidency of Bombay on 26th September 1818.[6]

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1. Ibid.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid., p.114.
4. P.R.C., XIV, L. p.427.
5. Ibid., p.432.
6. Ibid., p.476.

CHAPTER IX.

Social Life.

Features chracterising the mode of living of a particular community can broadly be grouped into two classes, those following tradition and those adopting a new way on account of unavoidable circumstances. The tradition - bound mode of life is generally the result of natural resources and the needs of the people. And these are invariably influenced by factors like Climate, agricultural resources, character of the land and innate endowments of a race. The country of Konkan which abounds in hills, valleys, and ridges includes vast tracts of land which are uncultivable.

The average rain-fall in Konkan is about 125 inches. Moreover the absence of perennial rivers and low fertility of the soil have perpetuated poverty in this region. Apart from the rich and well-to-do people like the Angres,Sawants and their Sardars overwhelming majority of the masses living sublime, in spite of natural poverty. Naturally the people living in konkan proper tend to be simple and frugal in their habits and their way of life. The result is that the way of life of the Marathas in Konkan is generally simple, without much embellishment and unsophisticated. These circumstances did not demand any change in the simple way of their life till the advent of British power in konkan. However the life in the villages continued unchanging.

Let us now investigate the details about the people their dwellings, dress, food, education, festivals, and entertainment etc.

The People :

During the time of the Marathas, the people in Konkan changed their hereditary vocation. The natural aptitude of boys of any of the four castes was to take to the calling of a soldier. The Brahamins in Konkan had cut their caste moorings, and began to play an important role as a politicians diplomats and warriors.

During the Peshwa period they became rulers. The word Maratha had gained dignity and status in the society. He was fond of plunder and war. The ambition of a Maratha Soldier was to become a mounted knight. He had an inborn love for a horse. It appealed to his fancy and enhanced his status in the social scale. The trot of a horse attracted him. Mounted on horse he brought wealth at the edge of his spear and rarely thought of making fortune by peaceful commerce

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Shivaji, the great, the founder of the Maratha Empire had launched his political carreer for promotion of *Maharashtra Dharma* which implied the encourgement of religious orthodox practices such as, *achardharma* and *jnyatidharma*, in other words orthodox *Hinduism*.[1] The goal of establishing *swarajya* and promoting *Maharashtra-dharma* in Konkan appears to have been reiterated by his successors and later rulers as well. So Hinduism was practiced by all class of people in Konkan. For the protection of *Maharashtra Dharma* (Hinduism of the most orthodox variety), the Peshwa was requested to undertake Bassein campaign in 1739. The *Patils* and *Vatandar ryots* from Bassein told the Peshwa that the Portuguess rulers of Bassein had desecrated the temples and holy places in that part and converted the Hindus and that *Maharashtra Dharma* was on the wane in that area and requested the Peshwa to reestablish the religion and reinstate the deities and restore the Swadharma in that area. Accordingly Chimnaji Appa conquered Bassein and reestablished Swadharma. However, Hinduism (or Swadharma) ceased to be a catch word in the later Maratha polities where the

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1. Bhat, *Maharashtra Dharma*, pp.84, 97-99
2. Sardesai (ed) *Aitihasik Patra Vyavahar*, Ls.387,446
3. ~~A~~ Vad, *Peshwa Diary*, Vol 3, para 5.

real political power was concentrated in the hands of the Peshwas. In Konkan the Angres were one of the members of the confederacy. They were at heart against the expansion of the Peshwa's power, which they feared would ~~h~~ lead to his total superemacy. By virtue of their superior caste (Brahamin), they would regard themselves as religious heads also. Therefore, Sambhaji Angre told the Peshwas' envoy to tell the peshwa that the Konkan belonged to Angre and the sidis and the Peshwa had no business to put up a fight for Konkan.[1]

During the Maratha period, the Konkan had as now a mixed population of Hindus, Muslims and christians. The Sidi of Janjira was a Muslim ruler. He followed the policy of religious toleration and did not disturb the Hindus in their religious practices. During this period the Portuguese cultivated hatred against Maharashtra Dharma i.e. Hindu Dharma and imposed various restrictions on the religious practices of the Hindus. They were forbidden from building temples and Muslims could not build mosques. The presence of a Portuguese at every marriage as witness was made compulsory. The Hindus were neither allowed to perform any religious functions at home nor permitted offer worship before an idol. When a person dies leaving behind him his only minor son without any near relations, except his widow, the boy should be converted to christianity. When the Portuguese occupied territory in Konkan passed into the hands of the Marathas in 1739, the Hindu rayot in Konkan appealed to Peshwa Bajirao to undo the work of the Portuguese and enhance the prestige of Maharastra Dharma.[5]

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[1] S.P.D, Vol 33, L 401.

In Thana, Kolaba and to a great extent in Ratnagiri, the castes which follow a particular calling are with the exception of certain local pecularities almost the same. Of the Brahimin community, the Chitpawans were the most prominent. They are known as Konkanasthas and they considered their original home to be Ratnagiri. Many of them were cultivaters owning and tilling the richest garden lands. As cultivators their skill and industry were provorbial. Many of them were khots who acted as money lenders and had trade chiefly in grain and other field produce a few of them were priests and traders. But their favourite occupation was government service. During the Peshwa regime they held most of the important posts in the Government. Besides the Chitpavans, there were Karhadas and Deorukha Brahmins also as they are at present. The other important class Sarsvats, were landholders, but rarely did cultivation themselves and like the Chitpavans, were fond of government service.

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5. Avalaskar (ed), Angrekalin Patra Vyavahar, p.16.

In the commercial world of the Konkan, quite a few of these Brahamins were rich traders, grocers, timber merchants and contractors.[1] Thana had also its privilaged land holders, called Pandhrpeshas, but this class ceased to exist after establishment of British rule in the land.[2] The only other class worthy of notice was kayasth Prabhus who were mostly to be found in Thana and Kolaba. Some of them were cultivators, some were in Government service and some were hereditary distric and village officers. On the whole, they were prosperous. Ther were also Banias from Gujarat in towns and large villages on the coast. In Ratnagiri, there was also an isolated and prosperous community of Jain Vanis.[3] As to the rest, many were laboures and miscellanoous workers who hardly deserve a mention. During the period of our study, the agricultural population ~~promlation~~ of Konkan was most varied and mixed of the principal cultivators, Kunbis[4] were found all over the Konkan especially in the inland villages Agris[5] along the coast and creeks, Bhandaries[6] entirely on the coast.

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[1] Choksey, Economic life in the Bombay Konkan, p.82.
[2] Ibid.
[3] Ibid.
[4] Kunbis are the descendants of pure Shudras, they are smaller, darker and more slightly built than the Deccani Kunbi see Ratnagiri Gazetteers (old series), p.121
[5] Agris literally gardeners. They are found along creek banks i Alibag and Pen. some of them are Mithagaris, Saltmakers and tillers of the salt, rice lands. Kolaba Gazetteers (old series p.51
[6] They supplied fighting men to the former pirate chiefs. they are strong and fine looking.some of them are cultivators, a few moneylenders and most own coconut trees or are engaged in liquor trade Ratnagiri Gazetteers, (old series), p.124

The Sea faring Castes:

The Bhandaries, Daldis, Sonkolis, Gabits, Bhois and Kharvis were the main sea-faring castes of Konkan. They supplied crew for the Maratha Navy. The people of their sea-faring castes were generally habituated on the coast of Konkan and subsisted mainly on fish and rice.[1]

The Bhandaris, engaged in extracting the palm juice as their hereditory profession, supplied the nimble crew as they were experts in climbing the tall palms. The kolis and Bhandaris were daring people. They possessed practical knowledge required for sea voyages--the geography of sourrounding coast.

The khar lands were brought under cultivation during Angre's regime.[2] These are also called Salt rice lands. During the rainy season the Agris are all engaged in the cultivation of these land. Their duties were to watch and repair the embarkment and marely scattered the seeds from small boats into the inhudated fields and leave the rest of the process to nature.[3] The salt manufacture in Konkan is an extra occupation done by Agris, Kunbees Kolis and christians. About one third of the of the people employed on khar land and salt manufacture belonged to Agree Kunbees an agricultural class peculier to the caste. At present also, they form a distinct caste and do nto inter-marry with the Marathas

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[1] Apte, *Op-cit*, p.65
[2] Avalaskar, *Angrekalin Ashtagar* p.
[3] Choksey, *Ratnagiri Collectorate*, p.190

or other k~~i~~unbis. The men were greatly addicted to drink as they were exposed to the cold weather to which they were exposed in the salt works and salt lands.[*] The remaining two thirds of the people (population) were employed in fishing. Some were employed on board the small vessels which ply in the rivers, in the harbour of Bombay and along the coast.[2] The other people were engaged in agriculture. Fishers and sailers formed an important class and belonged to several castes. Of these, sonkolis and Kharvis were the principal fishermen and sailers of the north and south Konkan. They were always in demand and earned good wages Bhois found all over the Konkan, were mostly fishermen, melon-growers, labourers and cultivators. They are a poor class of people.[3]

Of the depressed classes, Mahars were found in large numbers all over the Konkan. They were village servants and field labourers. In dapoli and Ratnagiri, much land was owned by Mahars. Many went to Bombay as sweepers and carriers. Large number entered the army and proved hardy and v brave soldiers. There were besides, chambhars, Cobblers (Leather Workers) and Mangs. Mangs were few in Konkan. The Dher's were found in north Thana.[4]

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[*] Kolaba Gazetteer, (old series), p.169
[2] Ratnagiri Gazetteer, (ods series), p.188
[3] Choksey, op.cit, p.83
[4] Ibid, p.84

In Konkan Pant Amatya of Bawada had Sardeshmukhi Vatan of Salsi and Kharepatan and some villages in Inam.[1] The benevolent Amatya gave social justice to the Rayats as follows:

In his Territory the Amatya exempted cowherds and Shepherds from rendering Press-Services,[2] relieved his subordinates of the liability to stand surety for money taken on credit by the Raja.[3] He discontinued marriage cess levied on the Teli community of Tarf Kharepatan.[4] He issued orders for reduction of cess on account of Pati against the village nerle. The Amatya also ordered the renewal of Dharmadaya, a cash allowance in various villages in favour of deities.[5]

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[1] Khobrekar, Shinde, Konkanchya Itihasachi Sadhane Ls.3,4

[2] Ibid, L 162

[3] Ibid, L 65

[4] Ibid, L 123

[5] Ibid, Ls 154, 177

Religious and social customes of Artisans and tribals.

It is perhaps needless to mention that the religious brotherhood of the Warkaris did not, in the least, affect the functioning of Gotsabhas which played a decisive role in the social history of the Konkan of this period. These Gotshabhas were something like caste Panchayats, or autonomous bodies which dealt with the affairs of particular gots or communities. The political authorities rarely interfered with them till the advent of the British rule. Their decisions were binding on all members of the community, and the political authorities intervened only when the verdicts of one Gotsabha conflicted with those of another, in which case the dispute was submitted to the existing political authorities.[1] Not enough work has been done on their formation and functioning. However, we came across historical documents on the formation and functioning of Gotsabhas of different groups of artisans who were working in combination with each other to meet the needs of Agricultural Society. Documents preserved in the Deccan Commissioner's File rumal nos. 149 to 154, preserved in the Pune Archives give us information regarding the social and religious customs observed by the Artisans (downtrodden communities). These documents also tell us about the functioning of Gotsabhas of these communities and their judicial decisions in detail which speak religious and social custom of these artisans.

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[1] Wanderer Jogi had a dispute with his Jatigot. To get verdict he appealed to the Mahalkari. His appeal was heard and was reconciled. He was asked to pay Rs. 3/- to the Government as expenses of his appeal.
Avalaskar, Nagar, Arthic Va Samajic Jeevan, p. 91.

Before explaining the decisions taken by the Gotsabhas, let us describe the different groups of the artisans who helped the society.

The metal workers, among these, are iron workers and copper workers called Ghisadis[1] and Tambat,[2] cley pot workers are known as Kumbhar,[3] workers in gold and silver are called Goldsmith, workers in wood are Carpenters. Persons who dothe profession of weaving some fine silk and cotton are called weavers (Koshti).[4] Bangdi (bangle makers are Kasars. One group of artisans are tailors (Shimpi).[5] People who weave rough woolen blankets called Kambla are belonging to the Shephelrd group. There is another very negligible group of people called entertainers who entertain agricultural society. These are itinerant groups who go from place to place with animals like monkeys, bears and snakes. They are called Wanarmare, Darweshi and Garudi. There are also story-tellers or priests of particular Gods, Gondhlis or Goddesses or readers (ज्योतिष) and translators into simple Marathi stories as told in the Mahabharata, Ramayana or the Puranas. Then there are groups who put on plays with little bit of story and then speak of a lot of local politics, very broad jokes, a little bit of dancing an

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1. Deccan commissioner Files (Marathi) Rumal 151, pudha 1 & 5
2. Ibid, Pudka 12
3. Ibid Rumal 149, Pudka 4
4. Ibid, Rumal 153 Pudka 9
5. Ibid
6. Ibid, Rumal 151, Pudka 21.

singing (Tamasgir, Dombari, Kalsutri, Kolhatani). The last entertainer of the society is a group of dancing girls — group which is called Kalavantin Jat.[1] A mine of information about the customs followed by these jatis (castes) is avaliable in the documents of the Peshwa Daftars mentioned above.

All these Jatis which were called [illegible] gropps had their own traditions. The customs and traditions followed by those communities were answered by their members to the British Officers in the beginning of the 19th century. The British Officer collected information from the different parts of Maharashtra and Konkan, the common usages regarding marriage, kinship-systems and family organisation of 58 downtrodden communities[2] which include the following:

(1) Rangari, (2) Brahma Kshetri, (3) Kasar, (4) Komati, (5) Koshti, (6) Kasta, (7) Koli, (8) Katari, (9) Parit, (10) Sarvade Joshi, (11) Jangam, (12) Nhavi, (13) Vanjari, (14) Lonari, (15) Kirad, (16) Warli.

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1. Deccan Commissioner Files (Marathi), Rumal No.149,Pudka No.15
2. In these communities re-marriage of the widows are allowed by the Jati Panchayats and they are performed with the help o Brahmins according to Jati customs, see, Deccan Commissioner Files (Marathi), Rumal No. 150, Pudka No.11 documents Nos 1to

The information obtained from the caste-people presents a peculiar combination between the customary rules of law and the requirements of practical life. It is a noteworthy feature of the system that, in cases of crime the offender was required to purge himself of the sin he or she had committed by performing penance which was called Deodanda and to give feast dinner to the people of his or her caste, in order to qualify himself or herself for social intercourse. This was called Jatidanda.

The British officers who collected information also found that the Maratha jurisprudence during the period was chiefly based upon the laws incorporated in the Smritis ~~racial~~ customs and law of personal status develop~~p~~ed under the Sultans of the Deccan. The law of procedure followed and the system of ordeal and expiations, formed part of the ancient laws. The rules of the caste were based on ~~racial~~ customs.[1]

The system of management of caste affairs, both public and private, throught Majlis was continued till the end of this century.[2]

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[1] Ibid,

[2] During the Angre's regime crimes were brought before the Mahalkari and decisions were given by the Mahalkari office which were binding, see Avalaskar, Nagav, pp.89-94

The questions regarding social and religious customs were clarified by the elder persons of the above-mentioned aboriginal (~~वर्गीकृतजमाती~~) and backward class communities. Replies to the questions were obtained and compiled alongwith the questionnaire.

On scrutiny we find that certain customs and practices were common in some of the communities. In the caste of Rangari, Kast, Katari, Kosti, Koli, sarvade Joshi, Vanjari, Parit, Jaggam, Nhavi, Chambhar, Maratha and Kasar, a person was declared an out-caste if he would eat or drink with a Mahar, Mohammadan and Mang. Social intercourse with the out-castes ~~were~~ was also forbidden.[1] The Assembly of Got called Jati panchayats dealt with such offences. Moreover, the other offences dealt with by the Jati panchayat were also explained to the Government afterwards. Detailed replies were received and they are grouped together and given below as the offences dealt by the Jati Panchayat of each communities.

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[1] Deccan Commissioner Files, Rumal 152, Pudka 12, Rumal 153 pudka 7, 9, 12, 15 Rumal 154, pudka 5, 8 and 10.

(a) eating, drinking or having similar dealings with a caste or sub-castewith which such a social intercourse is held to be forbidden, (b) keeping as concubine a woman of another caste[1], (c) seduction of or adultery with a married woman[2], (d) fornication, (e) refusal to fulfill a promise of marriages,[3] (f) refusing to send a wife to her husband when old enough,[4] (g) refusing to maintain a wife, (h) non-payment of debt, (i) petty assaults, (j) breaches of the customs of the trade peculiar to the caste, (k) encroaching on another's clientele, and raising or lowering prices, (1) killing a cow or any other forbiddan animal, ((m) insulting a Brahmin, (n) defying the customs of the caste regarding feasts, etc., during marriage and other ceremonies.[5] Social customs of the above named communities are more or less same and the information gathered by the British officers run into volumes. We therefore, restrict ourselves to the information about habits, and manners etc.

Religious and social customs are found to be similar in the following communities which are as follows: In the Agri Gurav and the caste mentioned above, a man may marry his mothers' brothers' daughter. Polygamy was practised, divorce was allowed, a widow could re-marry but not in her late husband' family. The dead are burnt or buried. They were found eating

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1. Deccan Commissioner File, Rumals, 149, to 154
2. *Ibid*, Rumal, 150 pudka 11
3. In all 58 castes, wife by Pata-marriage (i.e.re-marriage) was allowed. But this wife did not enjoy the same ritual status as was granted to the wife by first marriage. we find that their children were accorded second preference in confirment of Vatan,
4. Gune, *Judicial System of the Marathas*, p.71.
5. Printed instances can be found in Avalaskar's *Nagav*, pp.89to9

flesh of goat, sheep, ~~towl~~ fowl and fish and some of them drink liquor.[1] In the Gurav caste,[2] both the dowry and bride-price were allowed, divorce was allowed as also widow remarriage. They are non Brahmin priests of the God and are vegetarians. ✓ In Konkan and in Maharashtra, Nhavi (barber) ranked with the Agriculturists, the duties performed by the Nhavis, besides the hair-cutting shaving of hair were to hold torches in Marriage processions and serve the guests with food at Maratha weddings. The Maratha Nhavi was not to shave untouchables and a few other castes, Europeans, native christians and Muslims.[3] The Parit are the washermen; cross-cousin marriage, widow-re-marriage and divorce were allowed. They generally burnt their dead bodies.[4] Vanjaries are found in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra. They are the grain carriers for different armies in the Mughal and Maratha times. Hereditary occupations of this tribe was to carry merchandise, chiefly grain, salt and other estables like dalis, coconuts etc., from one part of the country to the other on the back of bullocks. In their communities, cross-cousin marriage was not allowed. Divorce was allowed,

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1. Deccan Commissioner Files, Rumal 153, pudka 1.
2. Ibid, Rumal 151, pudka 3.
3. Ibid, Rumal 152, pudkas 12, 14.
4. Ibid, Pudkas 17, 18.
5. Ibid, Rumal 149, pudka 3.

Widow remarriage was also allowed. A fine was levied on a widow if she did not marry her husband's brother. The married dead were burnt and the unmarried were buried.[1]

Let us now see the living and social customs of the Warlis.[2] The Wrlis are an aboriginal tribe with their concentration in the northern parts of the Thana District. They are also spread rather thinly, in the other adjoining districts of Surat, Nasik and Dhulia. Their settlements consist mostly of a group of huts or thatched houses and are generally scattered over the area. Their food consists of the produce of the land like rice, nagli, Jawar and they also partake of fish and flesh of such animals as are usually considered clean in the Hindu society. Some of the more scheduled groups also ate such animals as dead bats and field rats. The family is primarily patriarchal though the custom of taking a gharorya is also current, according to which the prospective husband of a daughter comes to live and work in the family. Their common life was mostly ruled by the system of the panchayat, and the chief person among them called Jatela used to decide all matters of tribal customs and other petty disputes. They worshipped

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1. Ibid
2. Ibid.,Rumal 151, Rudkas, 22 to 25.

animal Gods like the Vaghya, Vaghoba, trees like pipal and some other tribal gods like Naran Deo, Hirva and Himai. The Bhagat was their priest, medicine man and the charmer. Their marriage ceremony was fairly simple and the Brahmin priest had no part to play in it. The woman called Dhavaleri used to sing songs on the occasion of the marriage. Polygamy was allowed though not common. Divorce[1] was permitted and the widow could remarry usually the brother of the deceased husband.

(Continued)

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[1] This signifies the breaking of a marriage tie which is called Kadimod. This prevaited among the lower castes. But Kadimod was not as systematically arranged as divorce by the Government.

Houses:

Now we will deal with housing, dress, ornaments, food and entertainment of the people in Konkan. The types of houses built in the Konkan vary with the locality and the stage of development and culture of the community to which the inhabitant belongs. Houses of middle class tradesmen such as Vanis, Government servants etc;, were the buildings with walls of stone or fire-baked bricks and roofs of tile;[1] wheareas the Kunbi's houses were covered with thatch or palm leaves or bundles of rice straw. The walls were of mud or sun-dried brick. The walls of the houses of middle class people were built of mud, and of the poor of reed. Shopkeepers used to live in dark rooms behind their stalls with a backyard for cattle and entrance was through a backdoor. The hovels of the poor with one door way were divided by Bamboo or palm leaves partitioned into three or four small rooms.[2] The houses of the working classes in the suburbs were nothing but huts which were covered with leaves. They were so low that an ordinary man could not be able to stand upright in them; on entering them he was obliged to creep in on his hand and feet.[3]

The mud walls and thatched roofs were the outstanding features of general habitations in the country. They were a clear evidence of the misery and poverty of the masses.

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1. Lieut. Dowell's report of 1829.
2. The Bombay Gazetteer - Ratnagiri District p. 137.
3. Purandare, [illegible] Purandare Daftar, Vol.III, No.46; Poona Akhbars Vol. I, p.70

Dress:

The style of dress of the Konkani Hindu which falls in the general category of Maharashtrian was at that time much the same for all communities with differences chiefly in material being due to difference in wealth. Because of climate of the Konkan, which is moist and warm, all the year round the people generally were found using the clothes to the bare minimum.

Among the poorest classes, including field and town labourers and the tribals, adult males generally used to loin-cloth wear (indoors) a langoti; a square piece of cloth first passed at the front by its corner over the waist cordor girdle and its corner then drawn tightly between the divide of the buttocks and tucked behind. While going out they were wearing a short waist-cloth (Pancha) in Dhoti fashion with a back-tuck or just wrapped about loins to make up for the deficiency of langoti. Most of the agriculturists used Kudata, a half-sleeved jacket. The varieties of lower garments in fashion were Tumba, Payajama, Vijara, Chrina, Cholana, Tumana and Dhotar.[1]

The Dhotar was the traditional unstitched lower garment worn in the same way as is done in the present days. Ordinary Dhoti measured ten hata (hand) in length and two and quarter in width.[2] A dhoti which used to be generally plain white have coloured borders of various designs threads embroidered in gold or silk.[3] The Pitambara was worn particularly at the time of performing a religious rites.

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1. Desai, Social Life in Maharashtra under the Peshwas, pp.156-157.
2. S.P.D., Vol.32, Ls. 94, 99.
3. Ibid., L.95

A variety of headgears were in fashion. Pataka, Pagote, Pheta, Pagadi, Rumala, Mitha and Mundase. All these headgears represented some kind of turban, tied in different styles adjusting to a particular shape of which we know very little.[1] Brahmins tied their turbans high above the head, whereas the people of humbler castes bound their turbans flat on the head.[2] The Pagote could be white or coloured. The Rumala had a golden border. The Mundase perhaps was o an ordinary headgear worn alike by rich and the poor.[3] The poorest perhaps covered their head with a piece of coarse cloth called Pancha.[4] Scarves were considered as an essential article of their costume. A variety can be observed in this kind of garment. Shala, **Chaddra**, Palu, Odhani, Sarposa, Dushela, Pasodi represent variety of scarves.[5]

The women's dress consisted of Sadi (role) and Choli (bodice). The Maratha women used to wear nine yard sarees in a peculiar style. The mode of wearing the sari followed generally by women of the working and agricultural classes and the tribals was characteristically peculiar. Among them Sari or Lugade which was smaller than the standard one was worn short, hardly reaching below the knees. The end of the Sari which they drew from the right across the

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1. Desai, op-cit, p. 157
2. Broghton, Letters written in a Maratha camp during the year 1809, pp. 76-77
3. Poona Akhbar, I, pp. 80, 81 and 96.
4. Parasnis, Kavyetihasa Sangraha, p. 501.
5. Desai, op.cit., p.158

chest was not allowed to hang on the back but was brought to the front from underneath the right arm and tucked into the wast-band.[1] A noticeable difference in the dress of the women of the upper and economically handicapped castes was that while the latter caste women covered their head with the Pallav of their Saris, the upper caste women usually threw it over the shoulders.[2] The textiles of Paithan were highly prized and used by the rich class women. Paithani was the name for a Sari of peculiar pattern and design, essentially rich in gold zari-work that was woven at Paithan. Blouses were commonly made out of special blouse-pieces called Khana, but sometimes such rich material as taffeta, qazani, itacha were also used for blouses.[3] The infants and children were draped in Kunchi and Peharana.[4]

Both men and women used to wear shoes or slippers called Jode and Payaposa, made of leather or Velvet.[5] Costumes of the people were thus colourful and bright. The rich would use fine muslin and silk generally

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1. Maharashtra Gazetteer, Kolaba District, pp. 133-134
2. Desai, op.cit., p.159
3. Peshwa Diary, Vol. 8, No. 713
4. Purandare, Vol. III , p. 173; Peshwa Diary, Vol.3,No.251
5. Peshwa Diary, Vol.5, No. 26

embroidered in gold or silver. James Forbes saw Raghoji Angre in this costume and described that "Raghoji Angria was spendiadly dressed in a muslin vest and drawers of crimson and gold Keemcab; his turban and sash were of purple muslin, the former adorned with springs of diamonds; his ear-rings according to Hindu custom were four large pearls and as many transparent perforated rubies on gold rings two or three inches in diameter; he wore a rich bracelet on his right arm; the handle of his dagger was studded with jewels; the hilt of his sword plain gold.[1]"

Ornaments of men and women:

Men and women of higher class showed fondness for jewellery. Sirapecha, Tura and jega used by the Military Officers and Sardars and the ornaments for the headgear. The turban were studded with a variety of precious stones.[2] Mala, Kanthi, Tikahara denoted the variety of necklaces worn by men.[3] Bikbali, Choukada and Kudakya denoted the variety of ear-rings worn by men.[4] Bajubanda and Bhujaabanda were armlets.[5] Angati, Pavitraka, Salla were the varieties of finger-rings.[6]

Women of this period decked themselves from head to foot with variety of ornaments. To begin with the head, we find gold ornaments for adornments for plaits such

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1. Forbes, Oriental Memoirs, Vol. II, p.160
2. Peshwa Diary, Vol. 4, No. 275
3. Ibid., No. 82
4. Ibid., No. 82; Ibid., Vol. 5, No. 79; S.P.D.Vol.22, L.160
5. Peshwa Diary, Vol. 5, No.124
6. Ibid., No. 79; S.P.D. Vol.22, L.160

as *Kuyari*, *Machha* (fish) *Kurma* (tortoise), *Bore*,(plums), *Chimanya* (sparrows), *Sitaphala* (custard-apple), *Awala* and Mayur.[1] The *Nath* was the chief ornament for the nose. The ear ornaments were *Bugadi*, *Karnafule*, *Balya*, *Kapa*, *Bhokare*, *Kudi*, *Kudakya* and *Kundal*.[2] The variety of necklaces appears to be pretty wide. *Mala*, *Sari*, *Kanthi*, *Tanmani*, *Lappha*, *Pota*, *Gopa*, *Galasari*, *Vajratika*, *Chandrahara*, *Mohanmala*, *Kantha*, *Thusi* were some of the gold ornaments for the neck.[3] *Bajubanda* and *Vaki* were the armlets. *Dore*, *Gajare*, *Gota*, *Kanganya*, *Patalya*, *Jave*, *Natasara*, *Tode*, *Pohochi*, *Bangadya* speak the variety of female bracelets. There are to be found various designs and patterns. *Painjana*, *Sakhalya*, *Gujarya*, *Toradya*, *Vala*, *Ghagarya* were the various anklets worn by women as well as children. Anklets were commonly made of silver and rarely of gold.[4] *Anavata*, *Masolya*, *Jadavi*, *Vela*, *Virodya* were the toe ornaments made usually of silver.[5] There was a distinct range of ornaments for children also. People had such fancy for ornaments that they would even adorn their animals with jewellery.[6]

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1. *S.P.D.*Vol.4, No. 31; *S.P.D.*Vol. 32, No.192
2. Chapekar, *Peshvaichya Savalit*, pp. 157-160 and pp.103-204
3. *Ibid.*, pp. 203-205
4. *Vaidya*, Vol. II, No.22
5. *Ibid.*,
6. *S.P.D.*, Vol32, L59

Food:

In the Konkan rice has been the staple food of the people but in the northern parts it is jawari and bajari. This difference in the food habits of the people has much to do with their social life. The result is that a resident living in one region when transferred to the other finds it necessary to spend more in order to buy the grains of his choice.[1] In some cases this difference in food habits is also due to a particular kind of climate. Any one used to live in particular climate natually makes a choice of food which is congenial to his well-being. The religion followed by a person has some influence on the matter of choice of his food. This can be varified from the fact that brahmanas who are usually vegetarians, do not take meat or beef. Some orthodox Brahmins detest taking even onions or garlic, However, the lower strata in the society is addicted to taking non-vegeterian diet, perhaps with the exception of beef. According to Broughton,[2] the marathas in general eat cakes of the flour is mixed with water and the flour which is wet is given the form of a cake; this cake is baked on an iron plate; as

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1. *Peshwa Diary*, Vol. III, No. 256
2. Broughton, *Letter written in a maratha camp during the year*. 1809, p. 17; Forbes, *Oriental Memoirs*, I, P. 413

an adjunct to it, they eat "dal-liquid", this 'Dal' is a kind of pulse i.e. edible seed; it is like Split-peas; this 'Dal' is mixed with salt, and pepper and is boiled; this boiled liquid is called 'Amti' i.e. "dal-liquid". Some times butter-milk is boiled and to it is added select spices to give "Karhee".[1] A poor Brahmin's menu usually consists of rice, curry, vegetables, pickles, seasoned bread, butter-milk and salt. Sometimes it includes a dessert.[2] Ration granted to Tulaji Angria- a political prisoner consisted of rice, polished and of superior quality pulses (Moog or Toor) Wheat or wheat flour, ghee, jaggery, vegetables, Spices together with betal leaves, nuts and tobacco. However, the ration of his servants (Slave women and a boy) consisted of Jwari, pulses and salt.[3] The ration of a prisoner of war with Hyder-Ali consisted of rice of superior quality but unpolished pulses, wheat-flour, ghee, sugar, salt and betel leaves and betel nuts.[4] Navymen's ration included rice, pulses, salt and ghee, and artillerymen were given ration consisting of rice, Jwari, bajari, pulses and salt.[5] It appears from the above details

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1. Broughton, *op.cit* ., p. 77
2. Forbes, *op.cit.*, Vol I,P.347
3. *Peshwa Diary*, Vol. 4, No. 181 and Vol. 9, Nos. 130,133,135
4. *Ibid.*, Vol. 9, No.38
5. *Ibid.*, Vol. 3, Nos.292, 312 and 313

that ghee, sugar and rice were not considered necessary in an ordinary fare. According to Forbes, the higher ranks throughout India were addicaed to eating rice.[1] Ghee and other milk products included in the menu of the well-to-do.[2] From the description of a party given by a rich Brahmin, we learn that the nenu consisted of "bread made of wheat, jawari or bajari, thin 'pappad' made of corn flour, a curry, made of boiled pulses, ghee, and another curry made of buttermilk somewhat seasoned and a big quantity of plain rice, and also two other kinds of rice, one sweet and the other spicy; in addition to these items there were pickles, 'Chatana' and stewed vegetables, all the adjuncts were placed on deep leaves round the large cover, to the number of thirty or forty."[3] The breakfast of the rich classes included ten kinds of 'Koshimbiri', or salad, 'papad, ladu or sweetmeats, curdmilk, ghee, jams, and dry fruits like almonds, pistachio-nuts, cocoa-nuts etc.[4] The menu of the middle class consisted of rice, pulses two or three vegetables, mixed pickle, curry, kadhi, and a main dish of 'puran-poli' and ghee. It was a practice in those days, that a Brahmin

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1. Forbes, op.cit., Vol. II, p. 174
2. Ibid., Vol. I, p. 348
3. Forbes, op. cit., pp. 347-348
4. Sane (ed.,), Kaveyetihas Sangrah, No. 331.

did not take the meals, without taking bath, making prayers and sandhya rites. Before sitting down to his food, he had to change to a silken dhotee, to avoid defilement.[1] Brahmins, rich or poor, used to eat their food out of plates made of leaves or plantain leaves. He could use a vessel or pot of brass or copper for the purpose of cooking. However, for the purpose of eating his food he was expected to use metals like silver or gold. For the purpose of sitting down for his food, he had to use low wooden seats, while plates and dishes of leaves were arranged in straight lines which were called 'pankti'. It was believed that such a seating arrangement indicated some caste-prestige. A person sitting to dine with others in the same row was supposed to belong to the common caste.[1] The table of the rich included twenty to thirty side-dishes.[2] While dining in order to enliven the air with sweet aroma, aromatic sticks known as 'udabatti' were burnt.[3]

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1. Forbes, op.cit, Vol. I, p.347
2. Sane (ed.) , Kavyetihas Sangraha, no.331.
3. Ibid.,

Education:

In the middle class society both in the urban and rural areas education was not neglected. Reading and writing in the mother tongue with some knowledge of accountancy and crafts were common items of instruction. There were many schools for the education of children where they learned their mother tongue. According to Forbes, there were numerous schools in all towns for the education of boys; they were generally in the open air, on the shady side of house. The scholars 9 used to sit on mats or cor-d rung floors and learned as much of religion as their caste permitted. Some instruction in reading, writing and Arithmetic were given. The simplicity of the average Hindu school attracted Forbes' attention. He says, "Nothing can be more simple than a Hindoo school which is usually under a thatched shed, open on three sides, with a sanded floor, on which the boys learn to write and go through the first rules of arthmetic, in which science some of them make great progress,[3]" It is a fact, however, that the lower classes were not "enlightened by a purer system of religions" or liberal education in higher arts and sciences.[4]

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1. Parulekar(e) op.cit., part II p.21
2. Forbes, op.cit., Vol. II, pp. 98-99
3. Ibid., I, p. 55
4. Ibid., p.126

The average education was r~~i~~estricted to the elementary knowledge of 'the three Rs.' The Child was taught the *Dhulakshara* writing i.e. dust writing[1]. The study of the Modi script formed a special feature of the course of elementary instruction. That was the only script of general and official correspondence. In the first stage the children were taught only to write on sand. (dhula) with fingers. For the writing practice, the student had *kittas* or copies written out by the best writer in the village. We came across a reference to *Biwalkari kitta*, a copy which was regarded as a standard one. After learning *berij*, *Vajabaki* (addition and subtraction) and *gunakar* and *Bhagakar* (Multiplication and division) deciphering and reading modi was taught.[2] The elementary schools were free to all. Most of the students it seems, came from among the Brahmins, Prabhus, Sonaras, highcaste Marathas and Vanis[3]. For these were the castes of merchants and officials, of clerks and accountants. Others who generally took to profession of arms would rather take pride in their proficiency in arms than in letters.[4] Literacy among the cultivatior class, was very low[5]. The System of elementary education of this period was

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1. *Parulekar, Survey of Indigenous Education in the province of Bombay* (1820-30), pp.6-7
2. *Ibid.*, pp.7-8
3. Bhave, *Maharashtra Sarswat*, Vol I, p.73
4. *Ibid.*,
5. *Ibid.*,

marked by a peculiar method of instruction which has come to be described as monitorial system. According to Jervis' account of this method, the senior student used to assist their teachers, in the instruction of the junior students. The students left their work when called to assist or help to young companions. In this system the senior students, while assisting the juniors in their work, were benefited by revision of their own studies. The Pathshalas (centres of higher learning) were few in Konkan. Edcutional report from south konkan reveals that at the schools of higher learning, students were taught gratis, and provided with free boarding and lodging.[1]

Female education.

Jervis, in his educational report, oberves that there were no females educated except a few that were thought in the families of principal Muselmans.[2] Instruction of women must have been done strictly at home, probably under the supervision of elders, and by employing private tutors or by the members of their own family. Separate schools for girls did not exist.

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[1] Parulekar, op.cit., pp. lviii - lix.
[2] Ibid., pp.xlvi- xlvii

Warkaris.

All castes and communities in Konkan ? joined the warkari movement. They used to take annual pilgrimages to Pandharpur. In the Warkari movement caste differences were forgotten. It was a mixed religio~~n~~us gatherings on Kartik and Magh shuddh Ekadashi, on the way to Pandharpur and on the banks of the Chandrabhaga. In social life, the saints accepted the inequalities of the caste system and did not protest much against its vigours.

Religious Ceremonies.

Performance of Brahmanic sacrifices was the feature of the period. The people felt that performing sacrifices was an important feature of true Hinduism, it promoted the well being and happiness in the country, and by encouraging sacrificial rites, one did one's duty in religious matter. The ryots of Bassein region, which had been for a long time under Portuguese domination, for instance, as if to compensate for their negligence of true religion in the past, conferred a dharmadaya ? Vritti ~~writh~~ (a charitable allowance) on a Brahmin of Kalyan. Because he had performed a Soma sacrifice, they felt that Swadharma could be promoted in like manner in that part of the country as well.[1] As the sacrifical rituats were too expensive, people took simpler agamic rites based on worship of the idol. Japa, Japya, upachara, Pooja were some of the popular agamice rituals which formed oa an important part of the daily round of one's religions duties.[1] The state was very particular about the stict observance of caste regulations. If the caste refused to accept a person converted to another religion back within its fold, reconversion could not take place, however faithfully he followed the Hindu religions practices. The case of Pathare Pancha Kalse of Salsette, who were converted by the Portuguaes, is in point. Their reconversion to Hinduism was opposed by their caste-men by refusing to admit them in the caste. During Shivaji's time and during the Peshwa's time in 1735 the attempts made by these converts were strongly opposed from their caste men who made it clear to the authorities that if any pressure was brought on them for admitting the converts, they would prefer to migrate rather than suffer deggradation of their caste[2]

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[1] Rajwade, MIS., Vol VI, L.53

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1. Awalaskar, Nagav, pp.127-131.
2. B.I.S.M. Quarterly, Vol. IIVIII, L.60

Pastimes:

Wrestling was perhaps the most popular gymnastic sport. Vajra musti was another popular gymnastic sport. Horse-riding, bothatee (lance) and hunting were highly favourite sports of soldiers Animal-fights, Buddibala (chess), Ganjfa (cards) or play cards were some of the games prevelent during the period.

It was customary for the wealthy classes to celebrate their festivals and occassions of grand solemnity like wedding, Christening ceremony, etc., by amusing themselves with Nach (dance) entertainment by Kalavantin (dancing girls). Dramas based on Pauranic stories were performed during the Jatra (fairs) before the village Gods by the Dashavataris. They were called Dahikalas because participants in this entertainment assumed parts representing the ten incarnations of Vishnu and this was staged on the open space without curtains especially during Jatra (religions fairs). This custom is prevelant in the Villages of Ratnagiri District even at present. These fairs were generally held at places of pilgrimage once a year. In 1736, the Angre Darbar had extended an invitation to one Shyamji Kale, Dashavtari for performing Dahikala with his troupe on the occassion of the wedding of Fakirji Angre.[1]

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[1] Dikshit - Limaye, Adivarayachi Shri Mahakali, p.126

Shyamji Kale and his troupe were wellknown Dashavatar artists and used to go to distant places to stage Dashavtaras in Konkan.[1] Listening to the recital of Powada (ballads), Lavani. ~~Songs~~ Singing or vocal music was yet another popular entertainment of the period. Gondhala, Lalita Katha and Kirtana are classed as religious entertainments. It was customary in Konkan to invite the people of the community called Gondhalis on occassions like marriages etc. for special recitals. These Gondhalis used to sing invocation to almost all the village gods in Maharashtra to grace the occassion and the custom continues even today in the rural areas. The festivals celebrated during the period were varied. The most notable amongst these festivals were Dasara, Holi or Shimaga, Diwali, Ganesh Chathurthi and at some places Vasant Panchimi. Over and above these, the seafaring communities were celebrating the following festivals, (1) Full moon day of Shravana (2) Janmashtami (birthday of Lord Krishana) (3) Kartika Dwadasi and falgun fullmoon day. On the last festival, goats were sacrificed in order to appease the local dieties.[2]

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1. *Ibid.*, *Maharashtra Sahitya Patrika*, 1932.
2. Apte, *History of Maratha Navy and Merchant Ships*, p.65

Devaski of the village deities.

Worship of village deities and evil spirits was Predominant in Konkan during the period of our study and even now. The nature of these village deities was varied. Village deities (gram-Devtas, as they are called) were believed to have power over demons. In every villages in the south Konkan, we find Ravalnath, Santeri, Vetal, Phrvas as deities. The villagers worshipped these deities by offering flowers, incense Sindhur, eatables, etc., It was customary to offer these village deities on the festival day like Dasara, Holi etc. or any other special occassion, the sacrifice of a goat or hen on the village border with a view to ensure health and proberity of their village, by keeping them pleased and well-disposed. On the occasion of the village devaski, Tarangas, (banners) the symbols of Deities are taken in procession. The late Bambardekar has expressed his views about Tarangas as follows:- "In most temples of this region, Tarangas are found. Taranga is round smooth pole of wood of man's height, it bears strips of different colours. On these Tarangas ~~face~~-masks (मुखवटे) of men and women either of silver or copper or palm of hand or placed. They are robed with saries and Dhotis and Worshipped"[2]. Mankaris (privileged class) of these village deties

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[1] Oturkar -Peshwekalin Samajic Va Arthic Patravyavahar, L.s.68, 72, 96
Peshwa Diary, Vol 6, No.816

[2] Bambardekar, Mathavacha Shilalekh, p.158

are called __Vartikas__. Those __Vartikas__ carry these Tarangas on their shoulders on the occassion of village devaski. It is believed that the spirits of god of Goddess of Tarangas enter in the bodies of men who carry Tarangas and therefore they move their bodies which is called __Avasaras__. At most places three Tarangas. They are called Tarangas of Rawalnath, Pavanai and Bhunath[1]. At other places number of Tarangas varies from 2, 4, 5, 7 etc. These banners (Tarangas), symbols of gods it is believed, must have comming into vogue during the Jain period as this reigion was under the Jain rulers of Kadamba and Shilaharas for sometime. Seven Tarangas are taken out into procession on the occassion of Dasara, Shimga and other important festivals. The chief one taken on shoulder by Gurav (village temple-priests) is known as __Jainacha Khamba__[2]. This establishes the relation of Jains with the Tarangas.[3]

We should now study the concept of deities connected with Devaski. These deities are Santeri or Bhumika, Ravalnath, Vetal and purmas. Bhumika is commonly used name of santeri. It appears that the ancient colonists who made settlements here started cultivation of this land and regarded it as a form of Devi and worshipped it. Thus Goddess Bhumi assumed the name of Santeri.[1] Bhumika means earth. Icon of Goddess Santari is found at many places in Konkan. But at some places there is a hillock builtup by the white ants (Varul or royana) which is established in the Santeri temple instead of idol, and worshipped.

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[1] Behere, __Shri Ravalnath and Konkan Devaski__, p.14
[2] __Ibid.__,
[3] __Gazetter of Ratnagiri District and Sawantwadi__, p.120

Temple of God Shree Ravalnath is found almost in ~~the~~ every village from Karwar in the South upto Deogad in the north. A few temples are found to the north of Deogad also. In Konkan, spirits or ghosts collectively are called as 'Rawalnathachi Kule' in a local usage. Raval is a transformation of word Rahul and Rahul was a name of son of Gautam Buddha. So the people in the pre-Buddhist period must have come down with God Rahulnath in Konkan with his worship. So Ravalnath became the trademark of South Konkan.[2] Ravalnath of Otegaon is the family deity of the rulers of Sawantwadi and many Bardeshkar Brahmins.[3] This is a popular Goddess of this region. Taranga of Ravalnath is a symbol

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1. Behere, op.cit., p. 15.
2. Ibid, p. 18.
3. Ibid, p. 21.

of this deity. There is another custom prevalent in Konkan worth mentioning as it tends to show that Ravalnath is Jotiba. On the occassion of the fair of Jotiba on Chaitra Pournima, silver idol of Jotiba is carried to the temple of Yamai, it is said for his marriage with her. Exactly similar rite is in vogue about Ravalnath and his marriage with Pavanai, whose Tarangas are brought together. This rite is known as Shivlagna.[1]

In the Konkan region Vetal is the deity most commonly found almost in every village. It is icon-idol; it has two hands with a sword in the right hand. The icon is either of stone or wood. Vetal is one of the attendents of Siva and it is believed that all evil spirits coming within his domains are under his comand. Taranga of Bhutnath is a symbol of Vetala who is considered as war minister.[2]

Rites about Balidana :

Though the people of Konkan celebrate other festivals like Dasara, Ramnavami etc. and fairs of local gods, they are not related to Devaski.

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[1] Behere, op.cit., p. 20.

[2] Ibid, p. 21.

The following are associated with Devaski (1) Kheterpuja (2) Khocha Khoch (one day before darsana), (3) Katan (4) Dalapacha Devopan (5) Seema Tharavane (6) Deserudha.

(waving with lights in a platter)

(1) Khetarpuja is arite of pacification of God Kshetrapola. A food besmeared with blood of goat is offered to him (God). This gods' image is usually behind the temple of Rawalnath. (3) **Katan** : is a rite performed on the Dassara day. Tarangas of god and goddesses are kept in front of a temple and drawn swords are placed before in crossed position like a pair of scissors. Thereafter, Mahar, Madval, Sutar, Pandharskar lie on one another with their faces up (Mahar being at the bottom), above them stands Gurav with a dagger in hand and he sprinkles grains on tarangas of Ravalnath and Panavai. Thus their marriage Shivalagna takes place.[1]

Salient Features of Devaski of Avasaras :

A custom of applying 'Kaula' or Prasada to idols of deities is in vogue in this region, Grains of rice or petals of flowerse rendered wet by water are applied to right and left sides of idols. Number of grains or petals varies from five to nine etc. at different places.[2]

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1. Bambardekar, Mathgaocha Shilalekh, p. 75.
2. Dikshit-Limaye, op.cit., p. 20.

Prasadas of left and right side are interpreted or taken to be as signifying lack of favour (negative reply) and favour (favourable reply) respectively. Prasads of eyes and feet are differently interpreted; hence a sort of technique of this kaul or prasad is developed.

In the devaski of Avasaras, when a doubt arises about the nature of kaul~~a~~ due to external factors, some error in applying kaul~~a~~ and prediction made by Avasara is verified by Prasada. Therefore at some places there is a custom that whatever is foretold by Avasara and endorsed by Prasada is to be followed.

The detail and through study of devaski of Avasaras will throw light on the religious history of this region. It appears that the people of Mahar caste were the earliest settlers on the soil of this land. Devaski of Vausa originally belonged to them. People who came to settle afterwards in this land must have orgainsed later Devaski continuing that link of tradition. Pan and Bela drum of Avasari Devski is beaten by Mahar. No Devaski rite is complete without the presence of a Mahar. Therefore, in villages any Mahar is called gaonkar. 'Thorle Gaonkars' is another name of Mahar. Besides Mahar Gurav, Gawada, Sutar and Madval are included in Devaski. As a matter of fact all castes have been accommodated in

Devaski. This organisation and reorganisation of Devaski reveals the spirit of co-operation, accommodating all and assimilation of all sections of the society. This spirit is the very foundation of popularity of the village.

CHAPTER X

AGRICULTURE, REVENUE, ADMINISTRATION AND LAND TENURES

Agriculture

The economic life in Konkan under the Marathas centered round agriculture. After getting full control over the Konkan region, for administrative purposes, Shivaji divided his kingdom into three divisions. These divisions were to be under the supervision of Peshwa Moropant Pingle, Annaji Datto and Dadajipant Waknis. The Peshwa had the region including Kalyan, Bhivandi to Var Ghat and Konkan. Annaji Datto was to look after the region from Chaul to Kopal including Dabhol, Rajapur, Kudal and Banda. Dattajipant Waknis had to supervise territory from Wai to the Tungabhdra River.[1]

In a letter reportedly written by Annaji Datto, thirteen types of soil have been mentioned.[2] In a Yadi, soil which raised paddy has been classified into Awal, Dum, Sim, Charhum, Bavil, Kharvat, Rahu, Khari, Kadayat and Turvat.[3] In general practice, however, land was divided in Awal, Dum, Sim and sometimes Charhum.[4]

The land was regarded as mother earth.[5] The cultivation of land by the peasants made it productive. The cultivator was the productive element of the society. In contemporary records

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1. Sabhasad, p.106.
2. Joshi, Maharashtra Itihas Rajya Karbharacha Abhyas, I, p.146.
3. B.I.S.M., Annual Report, 1835, pp.323-327.
4. Rajwade, M.I.S., Vol.21, L.203. Saka
5. Ibid., L.191.

the cultivator has been referred to as Kunbi,[1] Munjari,[2] Raya,[3] and Rayat.[4]

Revenue Administratration of Shivaji in Konkan was as follows: Shivaji appointed Sarsubhas of Prant Vasai, Prant Kalyan, Prant Dabhol etc. The Sarsubhedars exercised wide powers in respect of revenue matters. He had the power of fixing the renumeration of the Kamavisdar and the number of these employees, of increasing or decreasing the Rasad (Advance payment) of the Kamavisdars. He had also power of making enquiries into the revenues of their Paraganas, of demanding detailed accounts from there, of granting remissions as he thought fit, and even of appointing or dismissing the Phadnis. The Mamalatdars and Kamavisdars formed an important part of the administrative machinary in regard to revenue matters, but were allowed to enjoy their perquisites and others dues.

After the capture of Konkan territory, Shivaji deputed Annaji Datto to assess the land in Konkan. Under Shivaji the Prants were divided into Parganas, Parganas into Tarfs and Tarfs into Maujes. In Konkan, the land is of two kinds viz., the Jirayat lands (dry lands) and Bagayat lands (~~wet~~ garden lands). In the Bagayat lands, usually fruit trees including coconut trees were planted. According to Jervis[5] the Nangar (plough)

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1. Shiv Charitra Sahitya Khand 9, p.55.
2. Rajwade, M.I.S., Vol.16, L.138.
3. Ibid., 49.
4. Sabhasad, p.26.
5. Jervis, Konkan, p.74.

method was used in the Dongar (hilly) areas. In the plough method, the lands were assessed on the basis of number of ploughs required for a given piece of land irrespective of the location of the land and nature of the soil. At that time, every year, assessment was carried out by the Government officials with the help of Pargana officials, the village officials and village people. One such assessment of Revenue of Chaul mamala was finalised by Moro Pant Pingale, Prime Minister of Shivaji by taking into consideration the loss caused by various reasons to the Paddy.[1] The people of the region hesitated to agree to the assessment arrived at by Moropant Pingale. They demanded that the assessment be fixed by Annaji Datto,[2] whose results they would abide by. There upon Moro Pant issued stern warning and enforced the assessment fixed by him. In the Konkan main yield of the land was rice and coconuts. In the Dabhol Subha Annaji Datto estimated the yield of the land and fixed two fifty of the produce as the Government share. This was according to Sabhasad. But when Rayat brought to the notice of the Government that the Government share fixed was more than expectation. Therefore, the estimate should be arrived at after Nazar Pahani or ~~Eye~~ appraisal ~~Estimate~~. Annaji Datto agreed to this and reduced the Government share from fifty thousand coconuts to 20 thousand.[3]

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1. Shivcharitra Sahitya, Vol.9, L.56.
2. Joshi, Mahrastetihas Rajyakarbhar, p.80.
3. Shivkalin Patrasar Sangraha, Vol.II, L.1885.

In the year 1676 December, Moro Pant Pingale, Shivaji's Peshwa, and Narayan Shenavi came to Choul to examine the accounts and complete the settlement of revenue administration. In the year 1677 Shivaji made applicable applied the revenue laws and his ? system of administration to the Konkan region.

Annaji Datto, in charge of survey and assessment work in Konkan, wrote a letter to the Deshmukh, Desh Kulkarni, Mukadam and Patil of tarf Sangmeswar in Taluka Ratnagiri in 1678 and ordered these officials to make tours of every village. These officials were to classify land, note the crops raised and after making proper inquiry to fix the revenue. They were to send their detailed reports to Annaji Datto. Annaji Datto further communicated to the officials that he would personally survey three villages in three different regions, namely hilly, marshy and with black soil. The assessment of Annaji Datto was, therefore, based upon the survey made by the hereditary officials alongwith Government servants. Dr. Balkrishna has, therefore, rightly described Annaji's settlement as a settlement by the people.[1]

Generally red soil has been found in the Konkan region while the barren land was called warqus, the salty soil near the coast-line was called as Kheraput.[2] The life in Konkan under Shivaji was centered around agriculture. In Konkan, land is made ready for sowing by the end of April and the

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1. Balkrishna, *Shivaji the Great*, Vol.IV, p.109.
2. *Gazetteers of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol.X, *Kolaba District* p.168.

rice is planted in small beds to be planted in wider areas after the first heavy showds. In Konkan, rice and nagali were the main crops, Linseed, til and tag were produced largely in the Ratnagiri district which was utilized by cultivators, for making the ropes and cord.

Principles of Assessment:

Assessment was always based on Pahani or actual inspection. Shivaji fixed the government demand at two-fifth of the produce in kind per bigha.[1] Annaji Datto had fixed the rent of Thirtythree per cent of the gross produce, but Shivaji afterwards demanded a consolidated rent of forty per cent, when all the taxes and extra cesses had been abolished.[2] The assessment varied according to the quality of land and the type of crops raised. The variations in assessment according to the quality of land can be understood from a letter belonging to a later period. The black soil was assessed at two maunds per bigha,[3] and the Bagayat land which raised grains were assessed at five maunds per bigha.[4] The average assessment for the barron land was one and a quarter maunds per bigha.[5] Even the Jirayat land, it appears, was divided in Awal (superior), Dum (ordinary) and Sim (inferior) and was assessed accordingly. The Awal Jirayat land, the Dum Jirayat land and the Sim Jirayat land were

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1. Sabhasad, p.26.
2. Jervis, op.cit., p.93.
3. Shivacharitra Sahitya, Vol. VIII, p.26.
4. Ibid.,
5. Ibid.,

assessed respectively at thirteen, nine and about five maunds.[1] Vasad or uncultivable waste lands were usually excluded when a village was assessed.[2] Before making the assessment the Peshwa Government sent survey and inspection parties in the village and paraganas frequently. Till the completion of survey work or inspection, the Peshwa Government paid Amin and Karkun rupees eight each per month.[3]

appraisal

The practice of Nazar Pahani or (eye inspection) existed in Malik Ambar's system. He took only arable land into consideration to fix the average yield. In the revenue records for assessment, the following three catagories are mentioned (1) Land held by one person (2) Land held by two persons (Dumala) and (3) Land given to religious institutions. Then after deducting the above land the rest of the Khalsa land had been estimated for the assessment. Shivaji accepted and adopted Malik Amber's system which lasted for many years till the end of the Maratha period.

Shivaji introduced new measurements which was called Shivshahi Kathi, five cubic and five fists long. He continued Bighas as a unit for measuring land. This scale was adopted by Todarmal and Malik Amber previously. The table given below was adopted by Shivaji.[4]

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1. Shivacharitra Sahitya, Vol.VII, p.67.
2. Rajwade, M.I.S., Vol.20, L.94.
3. Ibid, Vol.3, L.330.
4. Selections from the Records of Bombay Government, CXCVII, Dowell's note, p.42.

25 fingers - 1 cubit
$5\frac{5}{7}$ cubits - 1 Rod
20 Rods - 1 Paud
20 Pauds - 1 Bigha

The assessment was, therefore, known as Bigoti or Bighoni because the Bigha was taken into consideration for assessment. Shivashahi Kathi was five cubit and five fists long i.e. 114.035 English inches.

Major Jervis, the well known critic of Maratha land revenue system, explains that though Shivaji made the rent of the land 50 per cent of the gross produce (बटाई), he did not collect the same in practice. It actually was 50 per cent because of this big measurement. The land in bighas were and of course assessed more moderately and measured less what they were actually in possession. Shivaji instructed his officers that they should not accept cash in lieu of commodities.[1]

✓ The main features of Shivaji's settlement were :

1. New Bigha
2. New measurement of Shivashahi Kathi.
3. Classification of land taking various factors.
4. Aim of well being of the peasant and removal of intermediaries.

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[1] Awalaskar, *Shivcharitra Sahitya*, Vol.X, L.55.

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5. Implementation of Tankha Rakba.
6. Option of paying rental in cash or kind.
7. Moderate land tax.
8. Emphasis on the cultivator to love his land.

During Sambhaji's time, Kalusha sought unlimited power over the entire Konkan. Kalusha did not follow Annaji's system and he raised the taxes. They were levied by rough methods. The evil of farming the whole territory was started by Kalusha. The new untrained officers were appointed and the Districts were farmed out for half the amount of the produce. For the first six years, this grivious practice was continued till he was caught at Sangameshwar, one of the important markets of the district.

Besides rice and cereals, the Konkan lands are noted for their garden cultivation. The Konkan is famous for coconuts and the betelnuts. These two have occupied about 95 percent land of Kolaba and Ratnagiri Districts. Urid and black gram is sown all over the Konkan. Til, Val are also sown in Konkan

" The Principles adopted in rating garden lands were more complicated. The trees were counted and money rate applied to each fruit-bearing tree, the aggregate of such rates being the assessment of the garden. To obtain the cash rate per coconut tree, a certain quality of coconut was fixed as the Government share. The quantity was commuted into a cash rate at fixed prices; what those prices were it is impossible to say. We have a scale of rates for garden produce in 1775. The jack tree paid at the rate of three annas per tree; a pan-creeper at 12 annas per 100 plants; toddy-producing trees one rupee per tree; coconut palms from 50 to 2½ nuts according to the quality of the tree; and supari (betel-nut) paid from 2½ seers to one-eighth of a seer according to the quality of the tree".[1]

During the Peshwa regime Mango trees in bagayat lands, it was laid down, should not be assessed separately. Mango trees belonging to Patils and others should be inspected when they bagan to bear fruit, and taxed at the rate of rupee one per thousand fruits.[2] The Government charged different rates for different lands and crops. The villages in taluka Neral were assessed after the usual/inspection in 1772-73.[3]

In 1767-68, land of Balambhat Godbole, a villager of Chambharli, in tarf Tungantan of Prant Karnala was charged at the rate of rupees five, annas two and half per bigha.[4] Bagayat land was assessed at the rate of rupees ten per bigha.[5]

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1. Choksey, Economic Life in the Bombay Konkan, p.41-42.
2. Vad, Peshwa Diary, Vol.III, 339.
3. Ibid., Vol.VII, 418.
4. Ibid., 413.
5. Ibid., Vol. VI, 721.

The Maratha Government demanded ten maund rice per bigha from the land-holder of tarf Wasi and Pen in Paragana Sanksi.[1] Sometimes the bagayat and Jirayat lands[2] were assessed equally by the government for the improvement of agriculture.

The rayat of Rajapur did not process any grain and, therefore, they were allowed to make cash payment at the rate of rupees fifteen per Khandi.[3] Naro Keshav of tarf Nanamaval and Ponmav also requested the government that a part of the arrears of land revenue in kind would be allowed to be paid in cash.[4]

In the B.I.S.M. report different rates were charged for different crops and pulses during the period of Tulaji Angre (1744-54).[5] Rice was charged at the rate of 20 per Khandi, Naghiat Rs.18; Wari at Rs.13.33; Till at Rs.50/- Chawali Kadve and Kulith at Rs.30, Til (black) 48.01, Pawate, Mug at Rs. 40 per khandi. Similarly, the assessment was fixed at the rate of five maunds per Khandi in kind.[6] For one Khandi of grain produced, the assessment was five maunds. The assessment, therefore, was in the proportion of one-fifth of the produce, as usually twenty maunds made a

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1. Vad, *Peshwa Diary,* Vol. VI, 720.
2. *Ibid*., Vol. V, 194.
3. *Ibid*., Vol. III, 356, 357.
4. *Ibid*., 363.
5. *B.I.S.M., Annual Report of* Shaka *1835*, pp.323-27.
6. *Ibid*.

Khandi. After some time it was assessed in cash by the Government[1] at per Khandi rate : Rice at Rs.17; Wari at Rs.15 and Warli at Rs.12 per Khandi rate.

The Patil and Kulkarni of Mauje Rajapur complained to the Peshwa Government that the Kamavisdar made heavy collections in Mokasa Babti and Sardeshmukhi and due to the drought the whole village suffered.[2] The government laid down that collections less than the usual collections be made and step should be taken to see that land was properly cultivated.[3] The Patil had the judicial powers in the village. He tried to settle the disputes among the villagers amicably. If the dispute could not be settled among the parties, the Patil summoned the Panchayat to settle the dispute. The disputes regarding the bounderies of the village were settled by the Patil. The Panch ordered the Patil of the village Balapur to walk over the old boundary with cow's hide on his head and also to stand an ordeal for fifteen nights.[4] Afterwards, the boundary as shown by the Patil was confirmed. It was the duty of the Patil to bring land under cultivation in the village even when it was burnt and plundered by the army.[5] The Patil and Kulkarni were held responsible for the amount of revenue to be collected from the village.

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1. Ibid.
2. Peshwa Diary, Vol.6, p.714.
3. Ibid.
4. B.I.S.M., 3rd Sammelan Vritta, p.51.
5. Peshwa Diary I, p.280.

Warqus or Donger land were assessed by the hal or plough and not by the bigha.[1] The assessment probably depended on the number of ploughs used.

Two types of assessments were made by the Government. One was the assessment according to the quality of land, and the second was, assessment according to the crops raised.

In Konkan rates for rice changed from place to place Rice crops at Kharepatan and Poladpur village were assessed at the rate of ten maunds per bigha for superios land and eight maunds per bigha for waste land.[2] At Devruk the rate was at seven and a half maunds per bigha.

Collection of Revenue

Land revenue was collected twice in a year, once after the rabi harvest in May, and secondly after the Kharif harvest in October. Revenue was collected in kind and in cash also. The revenue officers were fully responsible for any mistake, made in the collection of revenue. Shivaji laid down that the Karkun should collect revenue according to the production of each crop. They should see that the rayat was in no way troubled by Jamindar, Deshmukh and Desai. This was an improvement over the system existing under Nizamshahi and Adilshahi when the entire rayat was under the thumb of Patil, Kulkarni and Deshmukh.[3]

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1. Aitihasik Sadhane, L.66.
2. Rajwade, M.I.S., Vol. 21, L.47.
3. Sabhasad, p.26.

Shivaji controlled corruption in the revenue administration. He warned the Subhedar of Prabhavali Mamla[1] that he should not appropriate anything for himself. He should be loyal to the state and should not be interested even in a stem of vegetable. The officers should never extract more than what was due from the cultivators.[2] Revenue officials collected the revenue in kind from the cultivators at the time of harvest. It was laid down by Shivaji that it should be stored properly and sold at proper time. The revenue officials were directed not to press cultivators for the arrears and to fix the rates of assessment in accordance with the condition of crop.[3]

Encouragement to Cultivator

Shivaji encouraged the cultivators in natural calamities like famine, flood and scarcity and also at the time of movement of the army; He always strove for the well-being of the cultivators and the improvement of agriculture. He provided all necessary facilities to the cultivators such as cattle, seeds, money and agricultural implements[4]. Sometimes cultivators received money from the government not only for agricultural operations but also for their maintenance. Sabhasad metions an order of Shivaji by which rayat newly coming to the village were to be given cattle, grain and money for seeds. Shivaji endeavoured to protect the cultivators from the tyrannical exactions of the hereditary officials.[1]

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[1] Shivcharitra Sahitya, Vol. IX, L.55

[2] Ibid., Vol. V, L.996.

[3] Ibid.

[4] Vakaskar (Ed), Sabhasad Bakhar, p.26.

He tried to bring uncultivated waste land under the plough. The newly cultivated land was assessed at gradually increasing rate. It was the usual practice that the cultivator who brought waste land under cultivation, should pay one twelth of a ruka per bigha in the first year, one fourth ruka in the second year, one half in the third, three-fourth in the fourth, four rukas in the fifth, eight rukas in the sixth, and one rupee in the seventh year and finally the regular revenue should be collected.[2] These concessions in assessment were, thus, for seven years. When lower rates of assessment were laid down for the cultivator there could be a year when crop would fail (Nukasan Sal). The amount for that year was deducted from the total revenue demand.[3] If a cultivator came in difficulty at the time of the payment of revenue, the amount of revenue and government dues were reduced.[4] Shivaji ordered the subhedar of Prabhavali mamla to visit each and every village in his region and collect the farmers together. The Subhedar, Shivaji ordered, should help cultivators who

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1. Vakaskar (Ed), Subhasad Bakhar, p.26.
2. Vakaskar, 91 Kalami Bakhar, p.21.
3. Shivcharitra Sahitya, VII, L.50.
4. Ibid.

had no bullocks and plough and grain by providing all the requirements for raising crops and grain from the subsistence of cultivators. The Subhedar was not to charge any interest on the amount thus forwarded to the cultivators.[1]

Due to the movement of the army, the crops in the fields and family of the cultivator suffered. In such circumstances, the cultivators left their villages and cultivation was rendered impossible. The Government, induced new cultivators to settle down in such villages by exempting them from house tax and land revenue.[2] By 1739, the Marathas came into sole possession of the Konkan. We shall discuss the revenue administration of the Konkan during the Maratha regime. The revenue policy of the Marathas was leased on the principle of securing the prosperity of the tax-payer.

The Patil was responsible for revenue collection. As else where in the Deccan so in Konkan when the time for collection came, the Mahar called the rent-payers to the village Chawdi where the Patil held his office the Mahar's duty was to watch the fields, to keep cattle to carry out the Patil's orders, and to act as porter. Before the introduction of the farming system of revenue in Konkan by Bajirao II all hereditary revenue district officers such as Mahar, Patil,

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1. Shivcharitra Sahitya, IX, L.55.
2. Rajwade, M.I.S.,Vol.18, L.12.

Kulkarni, Sarhavaldar, Jamenis, Deshmukh, Deshpande were there in Konkan. The duties of these officials are explained in brief. In Konkan some places Kulkarni was there but at many places there was a Talati or village accountant. He had charge of from eight to ten villages and was paid from Rs.120 to 180 a year. It was his duty to visit each village every month, to see to the people's wants and interests, to furnish accounts to the Kamanisdar and to give each land holder an account showing his dues and payments.[1] The Patil came next in importance. His duties were to report new settlers in his village, to stimulate cultivation, to help in the rent settlement, to gather the village rental and to pay if to the Kamavisdar's office. He was vested with the powers of the police officer and it was his duty to settle disputes and protect the Ryot from oppression. His emoluments veried from place to place. In Kalyan taluka he got two-thirds of the proceeds of the five percent charge on the village revenue. In the coastal tracts, he was paid in land from half a bigha to ten or even twenty bighas.[2]

Kulkarni:

In the contemporary records Kulkarni has been called as Gaonkulkarni.[3] Along with Patil, Kulkarni was an important person who had duties and rights in the village. Documents

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1. Choksey, Economic Life in the Bombay Konkan, p.19.
2. Ibid.
3. Vad, Peshwa Diaries, Vol.3, Para 4.

like the sale-deed, mortage-deed and Kowlnamas regarding the watans in the village were to be written by the Kulkarni. While writing these documents the Patil was to be given the information and the Patil probably attended the meeting when the documents were written. The Patil was also to take Kulkarni in confidence in the administration of the village. The collection of the revenue and the expenditure on account of village were to be done by the Patil and Kulkarni unitedly.[1] The Kulkarni was to write the complaints made by the parties to a dispute. He was to get some amount of money as his fee. As has been already noted, the Patil and Kulkarni were held responsible for the collection of revenue in the village. In case they failed, they were sometimes kept under confinement till the payment of amount on account of revenue.[2] After deducting the government dues and miscellaneous expenditure in the village the remaining amount was to be shared by Patil and Kulkarni.[3]

Deshmukh and Deshpande :

The traditional duties of these officials as existing under Shivaji continued under the Peshwas in Konkan. The Deshmukh and the Deshpande were in charge of district and supposed to be the friends of the rayats, and to encourage

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1. B.I.S.Mandal, Shast Semelan Vritta, p.117.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid.

the cultivator. In 1760-61 the rayats of prant Rajapuri were in a state of consternation on account of disturbance created by the Sidi and, therefore, their lands remained uncultivated. The Jamindars (Deshmukh and Deshpande), Khots and Patils, therefore, came to the Huzur at Poona and prayed that the land of the province might be inspected and that assessment should be levied in the year according to the findings in the inspection.[1] The cultivators were given concession according to the request of Deshmukh and Deshpande.[2] They were also to keep a register of all new grants of transfer of property either by the government or by individuals. They were used as a check on the Mamlatdar, and no accounts were passed unless corroborated by corresponding accounts from them.

Sarhavaldar :

In Konkan Sarhavaldar was appointed by Peshwa in charge of Mahal or tarf. He was connected with the revenue matters. Tarf Anjanwel in 1785 was under Laxuman Ballal Sarhavaldar and the duties of Sarhavaldar were laid down in a document.[3] The Sarhavaldar should be one of the officers sent to settle the Jamabandi of the taluka or [illegible] any inquiry connected with it. No revenue or account matter should be disposed of without the advice of the Sarhavaldar. Any reduction in the revenue

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1. Vad, Peshwa Diary, Vol.3, p.352.
2. Ibid., Vol.7, p.430.
3. Ibid., Vol.8, p.842.

was accepted only on the recommendation of Sarhavaldar. He also assisted the judge in deciding the judicial cases.

Jamenis :

During the Peshwaship of Madhavrao the First, the office of Jamenishi was entrusted to Balkrishna Hari and his duties were elaborated in a document.[1] The records of the inspection of jirayat and bagayat lands by inspecting officers, should be laid by them before the Jamenis. It was the duty of the Jamenis to fix the revenue demand after such an inquiry and then to report the matter to the Karbhari. The Jamenis should receive all revenue accounts and watch the closing of all the accounts. He was to carefully note the collections and arrears of the revenue. He had authority to increase the revenue of the village and to grant remissions in the revenue for a few years. The orders for the recovery of arrears from village were to be issued by the Jamenis. The Kowls for the abatement of revenue were to be issued by the Jamenis. A Khatavani (ledger) showing the amount received and the amount due from each village, was to be got written by the Jamenis from the daily ledger of the Fadnis. The duties of the Jamenis in the matters of octroi have been specifically laid down in a document of the year 1786.[2] The Jamenis was to fix the amount of octroi to

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1. Peshwa Diary, Vol. 7, 520.
2. Ibid., 780.

be levied under the orders of the Mamlatdars and in the presence of the land holders. When the octroi was given in monopoly the draft agreement was to be written by the Jamenis. Another important work of the Jamenis was to fix the amounts to be collected from the traders. These amounts though written by the Jamenis, were to be endorsed by the Mamlatdars and Majumadars. Similarly, the Kowls given to the traders were written by the Jamenis, but they were to bear the symbols of Fadnis, Majumdar and Mamlatdar. All the matters of revenue, like Jamabandi, survey, income and arrears were to be handled by the Jamenis. The government gave strict orders to the Karkuns serving in the office of Jamenis to obey the orders of the Jamenis. The Karkuns who did not follow the orders of the Jamenis were to be transferred. The Jamenis, therefore, seems to be a very important small officer at the tarf level.

Kamavisdar and Mamlatdar :

A significant change in the revenue system seems to have been introduced by the last Peshwa. This was the introduction of the Makhta system by which fixed amount of money was taken as the revenue of the pargana. Officials holding the Makhta or monopoly are referred to in the contemporary Marathi records.[1] Under the farming system of revenue the stipandiary officers like Kamavisdar and Mamlatdar became revenue contractors and the chief power in the village was in the hands of the body of men called the Khots.[1]

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[1] Ibid., Vol. 3, 414, 424, 425.

Malpractices of Mamlatdar and Kamavisdar :

A number of governmental orders are available in our records which reflect upon the malpractices of these officials. Sometimes the Mamlatdar used to send swars and plunder the villages in the pargana. The understanding between the rayat and the officials like Mamlatdar was necessary for the good administration of pargana. When the rayat complained to the government about such officials steps were taken by the government to appoint officials who would be acceptable to the rayat.[2] The Kamavisdars and Mamlatdars sometimes followed corrupt practices. As the Kamavisdar of mamla Rajapur made heavy charges on the rayat and in view of the shortage of rain the village was reduced to the poverty. When Patil and Kulkarni complained to the government against Kamavisdar, the government changed the Kamavisdar ordering the new Kamavisdar to see that lands in the village were properly cultivated.[3] In a similar case Sadashiv Raghunath Ghanekar collected an additional amount of rupees twenty five thousand in the year 1771 but this amount was not shown in the accounts. The government, therefore, ordered an inquiry regarding the income from the different villages, the arrears and the tagai given.[4]

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[1] Choksey, *op.cit.*, p. 18.

[2] Rajwade, *M.I.S.* Vol. 14, L. 93.

[3] *Peshwa Diary*, Vol. 6, 714.

[4] *Ibid.*, Vol. 2, 465.

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LAND TENURES IN KONKAN

Khoti, Dharekaris and upris

Under the Peshwas there were three classes of villages (1) Khoti villages (2) Peasant held Dharekari (3) mixed khichadi i.e. part rented and part peasant held villages.

The Khoti tenure was existing in Konkan from the 16th Century till 1949 when it was abolished.

A definition of the word Khoti in Molesworth's Dictionary * is a renter of a village; a farmer of land or revenue; a founder of the customs, also a contractor or monopolist. Khot had a hereditary right to collect rent and pay it to Government. Alongwith the responsibility of collecting revenue the Khot also enjoyed customary honours, privilages etc., which are explained later. The Sanads and documents found in the Peshwa Daftar are printed in the Bombay Government Selection entitled "Papers regarding the Proprietary Rights of Khots in the Ratnagiri District in the Bombay Presidency"[1]. They are studied and found that the Khot's rights extended over all the things in the village, not as an actual holder or occupant or owner but as a Watandar, whose main business was to encourage cultivation, collect rent, and pay it to Government. From these Khoti Sanads a reader can infer that the grant of Khoti was

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*.Molesworth's Marathi-English Dictionary (1975) p.216.

1. Selections from the Records of the Bombay Government No.CCCCXLVI-New Series,

not regarded as alienating important State rights - just like hereditary gaokars in Sawantwadi, or Patels in the Deccan, there were hereditary Khots in Konkan. The collection or rent for Government was their principal business and was a common feature of the three Watans.

Now let us know the existence of Khots in India. The terms was used in Northern India at Delhi and the Doab. Before Alauddin Khilji's rule at Delhi the men of highest stratum among the peasants were called Khots, Muqaddams and headmen. The term Khot remained in use in the Doab until the middle of the sixteenth century,[1] While it had a longer survival in Gujarat and the Deccan.[2] During the rule of the Khiljis they levied a cess of their own on the villagers. As a result, some of the Khots became prosperous enough to ride horses, wear fine clothes and even eat betel leaf.[3] Alauddin prohibited the Khots from levying any cess and forced them to pay the full land tax on their cultivated lands; he also levied Ghari on every horse and chari on every head of milet cattle, thus not exempting the Khots' heir as well. They were vigorously supervised. Ghiyasuddin Tughluq (1321-26) exempted them

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1. Tapan Ray Chaudhari and Irfan Habib, *The Cambridge Economic History of India*, Vol.I, p.14.
2. Moreland, *Agrarian System of Moslem India*.
3. Tapan Ray Chaudhari and Irfan Habib, *op.cit.*, p.55.

from paying tax on their own cultivation and cattle.[1] During the time of Firuz Tughluq, all ristrictions on them were abolished and the Khots became rich, having horses, cattle, and sufficient food-grains in their houses.

As stated in the Revenue Department unpublished Volume,[2] the first introduction of the Khots in Konkan took place in 1502 A.D. In that year Mustapha Khan was deputed by Usuf Adil Shah, the 1st King of Bijapur, to administer the affairs of the Subhedari of Dabhol in Konkan extending from Savitri River to the Southern boundary of Salsee. By many of the Kowls, the Desais, Kulkarnis and Deshpandes of that period were confirmed in their Watans. This shows that these offices were in existence even before that time. In order to satisfy this useful class of revenue employees, the Bijapur Government thought it necessary to recognize them. In these documents it runs thus: such and such person, Desai or whatever it might be, having accepted the offer of the Government and notifies all his claims, is confirmed in his Watan. In the year 1514 we find that Khoti of two villages were confirmed on one Krishnaji Keshav and his son Gopal Krishnaji Sardesai of Saitwade Mahal.[3] There is also a Kaulnama issued by the Bijapur King to Anantnayak Bin

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1. Ibid.
2. No.48/670 of 1835, pp.159-161; Captain Wingate's Report on Survey and assessment for Ratnagiri, p.9, Para 20.
3. Sardesai, Mavalankar Gharanyancha Itihas - Adil Shahi Firman, Lekh, 2, p.11.

Narnayak Desai, about Khoti of Bankot in 1553 asking him to persuade Rayat of the Village to come back and resettle in the Village by giving remission in the taxes.[1]

It is also noticed in the Mavalankar Gharanyacha Itihas that the Khoti Inam of the Village Kalwade, Pere Visapur and Walwali were granted before 1586 A.D. By the Government order of 4 February 1659 the chaughulas and villagers of the village Kalbani from the Pargana of Jalarabad of Kolaba District were instructed to continue the Khoti of the village and try for its prosperity[2] of Khoti Sanads found in the Peshwa Daftar for the period 1693 to 1818 is given in the Government selection mentioned above. From the gists of the Sanads therein, it is understood that in the year 1693 a village of Walwati in Taluka Chiplun was granted in Khoti to Hari Krishna Deshkulkarni[3] Watandar. In the year 1737 Bhikaji Mahadik and others were granted Mauza Nirbade of Taluka Chiplun in Khoti in order that they should ensure and encourage cultivation. The Grantees were asked to induce cultivators to settle in the village, increase cultivation and continue regularly to collect the rent at a rate prevailing in the Mahal. It was invariably the practice of the Peshwas and their predecessors to communicate the issue of Sanads of Inams or Watans to Villages, whether in the Konkan or above the Ghats, the orders

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1. Ibid.,
2. Awalaskar, Aitihasik Sadhane, L.52, p.28.
3. Bombay Government Selection CCCCXLVI (N.S.),p.166.

were addressed in the name of Mukadam. The officers so addressed in the Konkan were Khots.[1]

The Khoti sanad which was granted in respect of some Villages in the Deccan shows that in the Deccan, Khoti and Patilki were convertible terms.[2] In 1739 Mamalatdar of Dabhol issued a Sanad to one Krishnaji Gangaji Rao Dalvi of Village Kokare continuing the grant of Khoti Watan. In the Sanad he was asked to enjoy hereditarity Khoti Watan of the same Village.[2]

In 1689 Chhatrapati Rajaram issued a Sanad removing Krishnaji Godi from the Khoti of Mauze Palu Tarf Deolen and granted it to Vithal Narayan who was asked to continue the existing arrangement for the cultivation of the Village land.[3]

In the year 1725 Chhatrapati Shahu issued an order to Govind Yesaji and others saying that the four Villages of Lajul, Narame, Upale and Davakhole which were held as Watani by them should be continued as Khoti.[4]

The document dated 1742 A.D. published in the Government publication will show that the word Khoti was used even where no land was concerned :-

"The Khoti of the customs of Tarf Goregao was given last year to Bhago Bahirao, this year it is taken from him and given to

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1. Ibid.
2. Ibid., p.130, item 6.
3. Ibid., p.130, item 7.
4. Ibid., p.131, item 8.

Shaikh Mahamad Nadkar both as regards land and sea customs including the tax on horned cattle as well as the taxes called Thalbharit* and Thalmod**".[1] This document shows that the word Khot was used in connection with items of revenue which had not the remotest connection with land.

Another document reproduced in Appendix B, p.32 shows clearly that Khoti meant nothing more than collection of Government revenue and its payment to Government and that they exercised the right of creating, in respect to independent items of revenue, independent Watani Khots in a village which already had a Khot. Another document published at Appendix C shows that the words 'Mirasi Khoti' and 'Watan Khoti' are identical in sense.

A document at Appendix D speaks that in one and the same Village there were two Khoti Watans (1) Bhandari Khots (2) Brahmin or other Khots.[2] In the Konkan, Khots were treated by the Peshwas as Village servants just as the Patels and Kulkarnis in the Deccan.[3] Like Patels and Kulkarnis, the Khots had salary in cash,[4] land or both, attached to their Watans[5] and lastly during the time of the Peshwas, in Watani Khoti

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* Duties upon goods at the place of purchase.

** Duties upon brought goods at the place of sale or duties upon imports.

1. Bombay Government Selection, CCCCXLVI, p.22.
2. Ibid., 23.
3. Ibid., p.22, item 11.
4. Ibid., p.118, Khots in certain Villages in Taluka Anjanvel (Chiplun) were in receipt of service remuneration.
5. Ibid., p.22, item (12).

Villages lands were given away to persons other than Khots either in (1) Kauli or (2) in Inam.[1] So also Khots, Mukadams and Patels were regarded as officers having the same duties to perform and the same responsibilities to bear.

In 1727 by the order of Chhatrapati Shahu two villages viz: Mauza Azar and Bardi were granted to Govind Thakur Desai and was asked to render Khoti services.[2] Chhatrapati Shahu issued orders in 1734 to the Deshmukh, Deshpande and Sarkhel Sambhaji Angre asking them to allow to continue enjoyment of Khoti Villages of Pathardi, Wadoli, Shivane, Pachal and Watul to the respective Khots on the old tenure.[3] In the year 1748 Khoti Watan of Village Pur, Turf Devrukh was restored to one Balaji Dhonddeo Khandekar and his descendants hereditarily and was asked to live happily, enjoying Watan Haks, cesses, and inam according to ancient custom.[4]

It is a general belief that the Khoti system was prevelent in Ratnagiri District of Konkan. Early British Officers like Chaplin, Wingate, Collector J.A.Dunlop, Collector Reid, Leiut. Dowell and Wingate who had worked on the origin and nature of the Khoti system have endorsed this notion by dealing with Khots in Ratnagiri District. But there are some

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1. Ibid., p.22.
2. B.G.Selection, CCCCXLVI (N.S.), p.131, item 9.
3. Ibid., p.131, item 10.
4. Ibid., item 12.

documents regarding Khoti, in the Peshwa Daftar, Pune in the Dakshin Konkan Prant Ajamas Rumals 650 to 655. From these documents we understand that there were Khots in Kalyan Prant of Thana District and in Kolaba District also during the Peshwa regime. In support of the above statement, a gist of some documents which all found in the Peshwa Daftar rumal No. 650 of 'Konkan Prant Ajmas' is given below.

By the order of 28th August, 1752 of Pant Pradhan Gun (गुण) Mahajani Desai of Mithgavanekari was granted Khoti Watan of two Villages of Prant Kalyan Bhivandi.[1] In the Rozkird dated 3rd December 1752 of Pant Pradhan Village Tembheri Taluka Bankhal in Prant Kalyan was given in Khoti to one Naro Ramchandra.[2] In the Dafata Patra of Pant Pradhan dated 9th February 1754, two villages were granted as Khoti Inam to Jivaji Ganesh of Prant Rajapur.[3]

In the letter of 10th November 1755 issued to Ragho Ganesh Kose by the Pant Pradhan it is stated that Khoti of the four Villages of Borivali, Nalandhe, Kashele, Egavali was removed from Havaldar and given to him (Ragho Ganesh Kose) with all rights to collect revenue according to usuage and credit to the Government.[4] In 1763 Khoti of Mauze Tural, Taluka Sangameshwar was restored to Antaji Bhikaji and others.[5]

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1. Appendix A.
2. *Ibid.*, B
3. *Ibid.*, C.
4. *Ibid.*, D.
5. *B.G. Selection*, CCCCXLVI (N.S.), p. 131, item 14.

There is also an order of Pant Pradhan to the servants of Kolabkar Angre for collecting revenue of Village Talegaon, Tarf Waji of Kalyan Prant at 2 annas per rupee according to assessment rates from the Khoti Bagayati land. It should be raised to 1½ Khandi.[1] The Khots were given the sanads granting in some of them proprietory rights and in some the right for the use of words Jamin Jumala and the grant of such rights.

We have noticed Khots in Kalyan Prant of Thana district and in Kolaba district. We also come across in the Government Selection that in the Ratnagiri district about 1273 Villages were managed by the Khots during the Peshwas' time. They are classified as follows[2]:-

1.	Pure Khoti	969
2.	Khichdi (Mixed Dhara and Khoti)	134
3.	Pure Dhara held by Khots	170
	Total Villages managed or manageable by the Khots	1273

These Villages were in the five northern Talukas of (1) Dapoli, (2) Khed, (3) Chiplun, (4) Ratnagiri and (5) Sangameshwar. The Khoti was stronger in the northern Talukas of Ratnagiri District than in the South of Ratnagiri.[3]

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1. Appendix E of this Thesis.
2. B.G. Selection, CCCCXLVI, (N.S.), Appendix A 2.
3. Ibid., p. 140.

Duties of Khots :

The Khots had to collect rent, to make Pahani (appraisement of crops) and other administrative business for which he wanted a control over the existing village establishment. Pant Pradhan issued orders on 28th October 1760 that Khoti of the following villages in Taluka Herdi Prant Kalyan, Dahivali, Talwade, Selu, Kodivale, Birdale, Malegaon and Bokar was granted to Appaji Shivaji and Awadhutrao Adhikari. They should carry out the Khoti work by appointing a clerk.[1] A letter from Pant Pradhan dated 18th November 1760 stated that the Village Bamhanas of Pargana Nasarapur Prant Kalyan was removed from the then Khot and was bestowed as Khoti Inam to Vedmurti Balambhat Nitsure from whom Sadashiv Chimanaji should realise revenue and rent of the village according to rates prevelent in the past.[2]

Pant Pradhan issued following orders of 2nd December 1760 to Ramji Mahadeo as follows: "There was Khoti dispute of village Karajgaon, Tarf Panchnadi of Taluka Kalyan between Balaji Keshav Bedekar and Damodar Krishna Karmarkar which was referred to Pant Pradhan. It was found that during the regime of the Angre Khoti of the Village was with Dabake and after the territory was taken over by the Sarkar, the same Village was assigned to Bedekar as Khoti for realising revenue etc. While during the regime of the Angre, Dabake and Karmarkar were Khots of the Village. Whereas at present the same Village

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1. Appendix F.
2. Ibid., G.

was given as Khoti to Bedekar. Therefore the dispute which started was resolved by the Sarkar at Pune. Pending the decision of the Sarkar, revenue of the Village should be realised and credited to Government by keeping the Khoti in suspense.[1] Pant Pradhan issued an order dated 7th January 1761 that the Khoti of Village Tebhari, Tarf Vankhal of Prant Kalyan was bestowed to Laxman Keshav Daftardar. He should realise revenue according to the rates prevelent in the Prant.

In the following two documents Khoti is referred to as service Watan. A letter dated 10th Samvat 1165 Suhur (1764-65 A.D.) was addressed to Moroji Shinde Namjad of Taluka Ratnagiri by the Pant Pradhan in which Khoti Watan of Mauza Kapadgaon Taluka Hathkhamba was granted to Bhatavedkar and separate Niwadapatra was given to him as muniment of title. The addressee was asked to get all the work and duties pertaining to Khoti Watan of the aforesaid village performed by the said person.[2] Another letter given below regarding ancient Khotship and Hardi speaks of Khoti as a service Watan.[3] "Govind Thakur Desai, Tarf Rajapur, held the ancient Khotis of Villages of Ozar and Hardi. His servants who performed the Khoti for two to three years claimed as Mirasdar Khot of those Villages. On verification, the servants' claim was found false. His (Govind Thakur Desai's) both villages should be made over to him, and the service of the Khot should be taken from him."[4]

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1. Appendix H.
2. B.G. Selection, CCCCXLVI (N.S.), p. 169.
3. Ibid., p. 180.
4. Ibid., p. 169 (9), dated 1727-28.

The following accounts show that Khots used to receive Mushahire (emoluments[1]).

Memorandum of the recoveries and balance of the Inams and haks Mushahira (emoluments) etc. were ordered to be collected for the Sarkar for one year, Sur year 1176 (A.D. 1775-76). Mushahira (emoluments) to Khots, Kulkarnis and others were as follows [2]:

Rs	A.	P.	
729	11	6	Kulkarni Mushahira
177	15	3	Khot's Mushahira in different villages.
907	10	9	Total[3]

The accounts in another documents of Suhur year 1176 (A.D. 1775) show that the Khots were given Mushahira in cash as well as in land.[4] The following documents shows that the Khots all over the district used to receive service remuneration[5] :"By letter 26 Jamadilakhar (11th July 1779) Khots of Village Itane Tarf Kelshi represented to the Huzur that as the Khots of the different Villages in the aforesaid Prant had to undergo trouble in connection with the Villages, their Mushahira Salaries or service remuneration had been fixed out and that they have no fixed salaries. On their representation the Swami (Peshwa) fixed the allowance payable to them for their service of at Rs. 10/- per year from that year and Sanad was issued.[6] " We also understand

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1. *B.G. Selection*, CCCCXLVI (N.S.), pp. 107-109.
2. *Ibid.*, p. 41.
3. *Ibid.*
4. *Ibid.*, pp. 71-72.
5. *Ibid.*
6. *Ibid.*, pp. 110-113.

from the following memorandum which is given in the Selection that the Khoti Villages were subject to quinquennial surveys. "Memorandum at Taluka Ratnagiri under Mahipatrao Krishna, 16, Rajab, Bhadrapad, year 1175 (A.D. 1774)[1]." A Makta of the said Taluka had formerly been given out for five years. It expired in the year 1174 (A.D. 1773). Therefore, in the current year, the Makta should be given out from the Subha for five years after making all estimate of the rice and garden cultivation and the cash assessment over the Villages, reducing where it is less and increasing where it is more, so that on the average there should be no falling off from the amount of former years. According to that the Government will carry out (the settlement)[2]."

The former quinquennial period having terminated, a new quinquennial period should be commenced by the Subha. Kauls should be granted for lands which are fallow and should be brought under progressive assessment. In introducing a Makta improvement should be effected as far as possible in the above manner. The Maktadar should go at the village and give intimation to the Huzur through the Sir Subha. That the Khoti villages were subject to periodical surveys can be proved from the budget inspection memorandum (झाडा अजमास) of the Taluka Vijaydurg in charge of Gangadhar Govind[3] (1787 A.D.).

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1. *Ibid.*, Appendix A (I & II).
2. *Ibid.*, p. 74.
3. *Ibid.*, p. 75.

The Makta of the Mulki Jama bandi at the abovementioned Taluka was given for five years from Arba Sabain (1773) to Saman Sabain (1777). The Pahani which was to follow the expiration of that term, has not taken place. Collections are being made from year to year according to the total (बेरीज) of the last year of the Makta. - Therefore, Pahani should be made during the previous year and settlement of the Jamabandi be effected.

We also know from the records printed in the Government Selection that in the times of the Peshwas the jungle gurk (waste lands were granted on Kauli terms in the following villages belonging to Khots:[1]

Name of the Village and Date			Name of the Village and Date		
(1)	Chinchghur	1780	(2)	Kalbaste	1796
(3)	Mabhale	1798	(4)	Bhoste	1805
(5)	Takaoli	1809	(6)	Main	1810
(7)	Durgvadi	1813	(8)	Satere	1813
(9)	Bhingloli	1813	(10)	Tadil	1814
(11)	Nilwane	1815	(12)	Sadye	1815
(13)	Hedli	1816	(14)	Besghar	1817

We have seen that Khoti was a service Watan and the Khoti villages were subjected to quinquennial or septenial surveys. During the time of the last Peshwa, when the Talukas were farmed out by him to the Mamlatdars, the villages in return were farmed

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1. Bombay Government Selection, CCCCXLVI (N.S.), p.76.

out to the Khots by the Mamlatdar. It is also mentioned in the Selection that the following villages to which salaries in cash or lands were attached were pure Khoti.[1]

(1) Gondhale, (2) Aware, (3) Ranwi, (4) Rawari, (5) Kurchumle, (6) Bhile, (7) Palpene, (8) Kalbaste.

Captain Wingates in his "Report on Survey and assessment for Ratnagiri"[2] gives two classes of Khots (1) the Watandar Khots and (2) the Sarkari. The latter were liable to be at any time displaced by Government. The Watandar Khots, on the contrary maintained that they possessed an hereditary indefeasible right and that they cannot be dispossed. During the last day of the Marathas, depending on this point, they frequently pawned and sometimes sold their offices. Capt. Chaplain found from the Peshwa records that during the last days of the Peshwa the Khots were the farmers of the Village revenue[3] and that they officiated as heads of the Villages.[4]

It is mentioned by Capt. Chaplin and Lt., Dowel in their reports on Khoti land that the most of the Khots were Brahmins. My study reveals that during the early period of Maratha regime there were Bhandari Khots, Desai Khots, Maratha Khots and Brahmin Khots. The Brahmins came in by sale and mortagage and by grant in later times especially during the Peshwas.

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1. B.G.Selection, CCCCXLV(New Series),p.54, Appendix K.
2. Wingates' Report, p.9, para 20.
3. Choksey, Economic Life in Bombay Konkan, p.9.
4. Choksey, Ratnagiri Collectorate, pp.ii and 72-73.

The Watandar Khots were liable at any time to be dispossessed by Government. A khot naturally had no hereditary right to his Khotship, and unless protected by specific grant or Sanad he was not secure in the possession of his village. It is also believed that the Khoti was only prevelent in Ratnagiri District. From the documents mentioned above, we understand that Khoti was prevelent in Kalyan Taluka of Thana District, in Pen and Panvel of Kolaba District. It is also seen from the documents that the majority of tenants in Konkan had paid in kind; the general rate was half the crop, though higher rents were known, with the Khot paying the land revenue. This system was of course particularly advantageous to the Khots when prices were rising. It is noticed from the documents that Khots had proprietary rights. During the last Peshwas' time the Khot is seen collecting a special remuneration called "Khotfaida"[1], (खोत फायदा), which amounted to two or three times the land revenue, from quasidhardaris and occupancy tenants and he continued to exact free labour (Wethbigar) from his tenants, excepting former owner cultivators. The result was that due to oppression and demands on him by the Khots, the peasants used to migrate in search of a more liberal landlord. In these poor districts of Konkan, the peasant was made poorer by the Khot's exactions.

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1. Choksey, Economic Life in the Bombay Konkan, p.123.

This is in contrast to the early attitude of Musthfa (1502) where the tenants were encouraged to settle in land by giving privileges to them.

According to Capt. Chaplin, Khot used to exhibit every year in his account what might have been levied from the Rayats so that Government should not know what they actually paid nor whether the Khot might gain or lose by his farm.[1] In order to improve the position of the tenant the British Government enacted the Khoti Settlement Act of 1904 and finally Khoti was abolished in 1949 by the Government.

Dharkari Tenure[2] :

There is another kind of tenure, which is called Dharkari tenure. Dharkaris were also the first settlers of the south, who had participated in the work of rehabilitation and bringing the land under cultivation. They had to pay the rent for their proprietery land which could not be taken away in any case, even if they did not pay the tax.

The land would remain on their names as their own holding and when they would pay the arrears, they would soon get the land in their possession. They did not have to do any Government service, so they may be called first class tenure but inferiour to Khoti tenure. In the first class tenur, we have to put gaonkars, Patils and Kulkarnies also. They had mirashi lands and they had more Inam lands as they rendered

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1. Captain Wingates' Report on Survey and Assessment for Ratnagiri, p. 9, para 20.
2. Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency, Ratnagiri, p. 227.

the services to the Government.[1] In the Konkan we see very few Patils and Khots who were performing their duties at many places. In one survey, out of 1337 there were 607 Khoti villages which had no Patils.

Inam Tenures:[2]

There is Inam tenure here, a person, who had gained lands in lieu of some services to the temple or other places. They could enjoy the land as far as they work for the Government. But the holding remains on their names, for generations together. Because their sons were also doing the same work, the Inam land was continued for years together on their names. But they could not sale or mortgage land as Dharkaries could do without the consent of the heirs. Though legally one could not mortgage the Inam land as it was not their proprietary holding, we see in many cases that it was frequently mortaged in terms of possessor's life.

There were three kinds of tenures in Konkan.

1. True Mirasdars - originating from the ancient monarchs.
2. Mirasdars originating from Bahamani Kings.
3. Dharekaris, who were the descenderts of the first settlers of the soil, who were the real cultivators and rent paying persons.
4. Inamdars, who got lands in lieu of service to the State.

Urdhelis[3] :

The last description of tenure is that of the Urdhelis or Uparis to whom the land was either leased on Ukti i.i. oral agreement or without any agreement, who had no rights as to proprietors who went from place to place in search of work. Sometime, the farmer did not allow them to remain at the same place for many years together for they would asked for the right. As there was a deficiency of adequate labour, the cultivator seems to attract them by confering on them more and more attractive terms. So we can just imagine that though Urdhelis were tenants at will, they did not often change t their fields because both the farmers or the landlords and the labourers were dependents on each other in those days. It was not customary to remove them from their jobs without any severe crime. They had their half share in the yield and hence they were called Urdhelis. We come across several ~~so~~ sources that these Urdhelis, dupatekaris and tipatekaries had no right on the land although they served there for years together viz. in the registers of the Pahanis (survey) at different times made in the district of Konkan shows that the field belonging to Dharekaries were entered in their won name, where as those belonging to Khots and were tilled by Urdhelis were entered in the names of Khots[1]. This tradition remained the same in the Maratha period and ended when Khots' rights were abolished by the then British Government.

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[1] Choksey, Economic Life in the Bombay Konkan, pp. 33-34.
[2] Ibid.
[3] Ibid., p. 34.

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1. Ibid.

APPENDIX 'A'

द. कोकण प्रांत अजमास रु.नं.६५० २८ ऑगस्ट १७५२

राजमंडळ

स्वारी राजश्री पंतप्रधान
छ २९ सवाल दफाते पत्रे ता

सुा सलास
१
१

गुण महाजनी देसाई मीटगावणेकरी यास
प्रांत कल्याण भिवंडीपैकी खोती रयेस
सिरस्तेप्रमाणे गाव २ दोन देविले असेत
प्रांत मजकूर पो दोन गाव रयत शिरस्ते
प्रो नेमून देणे काही थोडी बहुत रयत करून
देविली असे देणे म्हणोन चिरंजीव रा
सदासिव चिमणाजी प्रा कल्याण भिवंडी
यास नसद
१

APPENDIX 'B'

द. कोकण प्रांत अजमास रु.नं.६५० 3 डिसेंबर १७५२

रोजकिर्दी

राजमंडळ मु सलास खमसैन मया व अलफ

स्वारी राजश्री पंतप्रधान
छ २८ मोहरम दफाते पत्रे

लक्ष्मण केशव दप-तरदार बा॥ स्वारी याणी राहावयास गाव मौजे टेभारी ता॥ वनखल प्रांत कल्याण हा गाव राजश्री नारो रामचंद्र याजकडून खोती करून घेतला आहे. रुा॥

१५० बा॥ गु॥ इहिदे

१४० ऐन

१० चढ गु॥ रामाजी गोविंद

१५०

६२॥ आजती चढते सन इसने

२१२॥

सदरहू दोनशे साडेबारास खंडून घेतला आहे परंतु मौजे मारी चढसुधा वसूल घावयास यैवज चित असेल ते नाही गाव प्रसीजच लागोन चुकला आजती लागवडा जागा नाही आजती चढ घातला तो माफ रुा। ६२ ॥ बाकीचा यैवज सदरहूप्रा॥ वसूल घेणे व मौजे मारी खरिदी व वेठबेगार माफ केली असे म्हणोन नारो रामचंद्र यास सनद १

सिवाजी बलाल सरखोत ता॥ १
मा॥र यास पत्र की तुम्ही आजती
आपले तर्फेने उपसर्ग न लावणे
म्हणोन पत्र

२

रा॥ यादी

APPENDIX 'C'

द. कोकण प्रांत अजमास रु.नं.६५०   ९ फेब्रुवारी १७५४

आर्बा खमसैन मया व अलफ

राजमंडळ

स्वारी राजश्री पंत प्रधान
छ १८ राखर दफाते पत्रे

त्रिंबक विनायेक कारसदार प्रांत राजपुरी २/१
यास सनद की राजश्री जिवाजी गणेश
यांस प्रांत मजकूरपैकी रयेत सिरस्ते प्राो
वाजबी आकाराने दोन गाव खोती देविले
असेत तरी नेमून देणे म्हणोन सनद १

APPENDIX 'D'

द. कोकण प्रांत अजमास रु.नं. ६५० १० नोव्हेंबर १७५५

रोजकीर्द

राजमंडळ

स्वारी राजश्री पंत प्रधान
छ ५ सफर दफाते पत्रे

राघो गणेश कोसे याजकडे पाा नसरापूर
प्रांत कल्याण-भिवंडीपैकी गाव खोती आहेत
देह

१ मौजे बोरविली
१ मौजे नालघे
१ मौजे कशेले
१ मौजे इगवली
४

येकूण चार गाव खोती आहेत त्यास सालगुदस्ता वेठबेगार फरफर्मास खरिदी वगैरे माफ केली किले जातची नेमणूक आहे त्याप्राो द्यावे जाजती उपसर्ग लाऊ नये याप्राो करार करून गुदस्ता तुम्हास व माहलकरी यास पत्रे लेहून दिल्ही आहेत त्यास हाली सदरहू चार गाव हवालदाराकडून दूर करून तुम्हास सनद सादर केली असे तरी सदरहू चार गावची खंडणी तुम्ही सुभाहून करावी आणि वसूल देत जावा माहलकरी यास येकदर गावाकडे चिठी पत्री करावयास प्रयोजन नाही येणे प्राो करार केला असे तरी तुम्ही सदरहू गावचा जमा वसूल सुभा करणे किले जातची कारसाजची जा नेमणूक सादबाद प्राो दोणे वरकड वेठबेगार खरिदी ज्यहत फर्मास खर्च वेचे वगैरे गुदस्ता माफ केली त्या प्राो चालवणे म्हणोन चिंरजीव राजश्री सदासिव चिमणाजी यास

सनद
१

APPENDIX 'E'

राजमंडळ

रोजकीर्दी
१७६०

स्वारी राजश्री पंत प्रधान सु॥ इहिदे छ ७
जमादिलौवल दफाते पत्रे

दुलबाजी मोड हशम कुलाबकर यास मौजे तलेगाव ता॥ वाजे प्रांत कल्याण बागा व खोती आहेत. तेथील दिवाणची खरिदी जमाबंदीप्रो दर रुपयास चवलाचे भात देत असतात त्यास जमाबंदिप्रमाणे भात खंडी १॥ ४ दीड खंडी च्यार मण होते ते कुलाबकराचे पावती बा॥ हुजूर लेहून पाठविणे वसुलाचा तगादा न लावणे म्हणोन चिरंजीव राजश्री सदासिव चिमणाजी यास

सनद
१

सुरु सुद

APPENDIX 'F'

राजमंडळ आश्विन वाा ४, शके १६८२
१७६०, ऑक्टोबर २८

सुाा इहिदे सितैन मया व अलफ

स्वारी राजश्री पंत प्रधान छ १८ रोवल दफाते पत्रे

रामाजी माहादेव यास सनद की कृष्णराव अनंत याणी हुजूर विदीत केले जे ताा हेरडी प्रांत कल्याण येथील खोती आपाजी व सिवजी व अवधुतराव अधिकारी याजकडे आहे त्यापैकी गाव

१	मौजे दहिवली
१	मौजे तलवडे
१	मौजे सेलू
१	मौजे कोदिवले
१	मौजे बिरदाले
१	मौजे मालेगाव
१	मौजे बोकर
७	

सात गाव आपल्यास खोतीने दिल्हे आहेत तेथे कारकून ठेवणार त्याजपासून खोतीचे कामकाज घेणे म्हणून सनद द्यावी त्यावरून तुम्हास सनद सादर केली असे तर सदरहू गावची खोती आपाजी सिवजी याची व अवधुतराव अधिकारी याची खरी त्याणी यास दिली हे खरे असलिया हे कारकून ठेवितील त्याजपासून खोतीचे कामकाज सिरस्तेप्राा सालमजकुरापासून घेत जाणे म्हणून सनद
१

रसानगी यादी

सुरु सुद

APPENDIX 'G'

राजमुंडळ

शुाा १०
कार्तिक, शके १६८२
१७६०, नोव्हेंबर १८

स्वारी पंत प्रधान सुाा इहिदे सितैन मया व अलफ
छ ९ रबिलाखर दफाते पत्र

मौजे ब्राम्हणास ताा बीड पाा नसरापूर प्रां कल्याण हा गाव पेशजीचे खोतीकडून दूर करून साल मजकूरापासून वेदमूर्ती बाळंभट निदसुरे यास खोती करार करून दिल्ही असे तरी सन सितैनातमौजे मजकूरचा आकार झाला असेल त्याप्राो नख्ती उगवणी सिरस्तेप्राो गावची उगवणी सिरस्ते वेदमूर्तीपासून करून देत जाणे प्राा मजकुरी जाजती चढ जाला तर मुलूक सिरस्तेप्राो मौजे मजकुरावर चढ बसेल तो घालून नख्ती उगवणी करून देत जाणे जाजती चढ न पडल्यास सितैनचे आकाराप्रमाणेच नख्ती उगवणी करून देणे म्हणून चिरंजीव राजश्री सदासिव चिमणाजी यासी सनद
१

सुाा सुद
रसानगी यादी

APPENDIX 'H'

कार्तिक वाा १०, शके १८८२
रोजकीर्दी

कार्तिक वाा १०, शके १८८२

राजमंडळ

स्वारी राजश्री पंतप्रधान सुTT इहिदे सितैन मया व अलफ
छ रातखर मुकाम पुणे दफाते पत्रे

राजश्री रामाजी महादेव याचे नावे सनद की मौजे करंजगाव ता पंचनदी येथील खोतीचा कजिया बालाजी केशव बेडेकर याचा व बालाजी महादेव दाबके व दामोदर कृष्णा करमरकर याचा आहे त्याची मनसुबी हुजूर होत आहे ऐशास तुलाजी आंग्रे याचे अमलात खोती दाबके याजकडे चालत होती आलीकडे सरकारचा अमल जाहलियावरी मनसुबी मनास न आणिता वतन बेडेकरांकडे चालते केलेत त्याजवरुन तुम्हास आज्ञापत्र सादर करुन आब आणविला त्यात तुम्ही लीा की लावणीवर दृष्ट ठेवून वतन हवाला केले मनसुबीमुळे जाले नाही त्यावरुन मनास आणिता आंगरे याचे अमलात भोगवटा दाबके व करमरकर याचा आलीकडे लावणी बेडेकर करतो म्हणोन याचा याजकरीता स्वारी पुण्यास येऊन मनसुबीचा ठराव होये तोपर्यन्त मौजे मजकूरचे खोतीचे वतन सरकारात अमानत ठेविले असे तरी खोतीचा पानमान व आटवेड ते असेल तो हक उत्पन्न होईल ते सरकारचे हिसेबी जमा करणे म्हणोन

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HISTORY OF KONKAN
(1630 - 1818)

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CHAPTER X

AGRICULTURE, REVENUE, ADMINISTRATION AND LAND TENURES

Agriculture

The economic life in Konkan under the Marathas centered round agriculture. After getting full control over the Konkan region, for administrative purposes, Shivaji divided his kingdom into three divisions. These divisions were to be under the supervision of Peshwa Moropant Pingle, Annaji Datto and Dadajipant Waknis. The Peshwa had the region including Kalyan, Bhivandi to Var Ghat and Konkan. Annaji Datto was to look after the region from Chaul to Kopal including Dabhol, Rajapur, Kudal and Banda. Dattajipant Waknis had to supervise territory from Wai to the Tungabhdra River.[1]

In a letter reportedly written by Annaji Datto, thirteen types of soil have been mentioned.[2] In a Yadi, soil which raised paddy has been classified into Awal, Dum, Sim, Charhum, Bavil, Kharvat, Rahu, Khari, Kadayat and Turvat.[3] In general practice, however, land was divided in Awal, Dum, Sim and sometimes Charhum.[4]

The land was regarded as mother earth.[5] The cultivation of land by the peasants made it productive. The cultivator was the productive element of the society. In contemporary records

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1. *Sabhasad*, p.106.
2. Joshi, *Maharashtra Itihas Rajya Karbharacha Abhyas*, I, p.146.
3. *B.I.S.M.*, *Annual Report*, Saka 1835, pp.323-327.
4. Rajwade, *M.I.S.*, Vol.21, L.203.
5. *Ibid.*, L.191.

the cultivator has been referred to as Kunbi,[1] Munjari,[2] Raya,[3] and Rayat.[4]

Revenue Administratration of Shivaji in Konkan was as follows: Shivaji appointed Sarsubhas of Prant Vasai, Prant Kalyan, Prant Dabhol etc. The Sarsubhedars exercised wide powers in respect of revenue matters. He had the power of fixing the renumeration of the Kamavisdar and the number of these employees, of increasing or decreasing the Rasad (Advance payment) of the Kamavisdars. He had also power of making enquiries into the revenues of their Paraganas, of demanding detailed accounts from there, of granting remissions as he thought fit, and even of appointing or dismissing the Phadnis. The Mamalatdars and Kamavisdars formed an important part of the administrative machinary in regard to revenue matters, but were allowed to enjoy their perquisites and others dues.

After the capture of Konkan territory, Shivaji deputed Annaji Datto to assess the land in Konkan. Under Shivaji the Prants were divided into Parganas, Parganas into Tarfs and Tarfs into Maujes. In Konkan, the land is of two kinds viz., the Jirayat lands (dry lands) and Bagayat lands (~~wet~~ garden lands). In the Bagayat lands, usually fruit trees including coconut trees were planted. According to Jervis[5] the Nangar (plough)

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1. *Shiv Charitra Sahitya Khand* 9, p.55.
2. Rajwade, *M.I.S.*, Vol.16, L.138.
3. *Ibid.*, 49.
4. *Sabhasad*, p.26.
5. Jervis, *Konkan*, p.74.

method was used in the Donger (hilly) areas. In the plough method, the lands were assessed on the basis of number of ploughs required for a given piece of land irrespective of the location of the land and nature of the soil. At that time, every year, assessment was carried out by the Government officials with the help of Pargana officials, the village officials and village people. One such assessment of Revenue of Chaul mamala was finalised by Moro Pant Pingale, Prime Minister of Shivaji by taking into consideration the loss caused by various reasons to the Paddy.[1] The people of the region hesitated to agree to the assessment arrived at by Moropant Pingale. They demanded that the assessment be fixed by Annaji Datto,[2] whose results they would abide by. There upon Moro Pant issued stern warning and enforced the assessment fixed by him. In the Konkan main yield of the land was rice and coconuts. In the Dabhol Subha Annaji Datto estimated the yield of the land and fixed two fifty of the produce as the Government share. This was according to Sabhasad. But when Rayat brought to the notice of the Government that the Government share fixed was more than expectation. Therefore, the estimate should be arrived at after Nazar Pahani or ~~Eye~~ appraisal Estimate. Annaji Datto agreed to this and reduced the Government share from fifty thousand coconuts to 20 thousand.[3]

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[1] Shivcharitra Sahitya, Vol.9, L.56.
[2] Joshi, Mahrastetihas Rajyakarbhar, p.80.
[3] Shivkalin Patrasar Sangraha, Vol.II, L.1885.

In the year 1676 December, Moro Pant Pingale, Shivaji's Peshwa, and Narayan Shenavi came to Choul to examine the accounts and complete the settlement of revenue administration. In the year 1677 Shivaji made applied applicable the revenue laws and his ? system of administration to the Konkan region.

Annaji Datto, in charge of survey and assessment work in Konkan, wrote a letter to the Deshmukh, Desh Kulkerni, Mukadam and Patil of tarf Sangmeswar in Taluka Ratnagiri in 1678 and ordered these officials to make tours of every village. These officials were to classify land, note the crops raised and after making proper inquiry to fix the revenue. They were to send their detailed reports to Annaji Datto. Annaji Datto further communicated to the officials that he would personally survey three villages in three different regions, namely hilly, marshy and with black soil. The assessment of Annaji Datto was, therefore, based upon the survey made by the hereditary officials alongwith Government servants. Dr. Balkrishna has, therefore, rightly described Annaji's settlement as a settlement by the people.[1]

Generally red soil has been found in the Konkan region while the barren land was called warqus, the salty soil near the coast-line was called as Kharaput.[2] The life in Konkan under Shivaji was centered around agriculture. In Konkan, land is made ready for sowing by the end of April and the

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1. Balkrishna, Shivaji the Great, Vol.IV, p.109.
2. Gazetteers of the Bombay Presidency, Vol.X, Kolaba District p.168.

rice is planted in small beds to be planted in wider areas after the first heavy showds. In Konkan, rice and nagali were the main crops, Linseed, til and tag were produced largely in the Ratnagiri district which was utilized by cultivators, for making the ropes and cord.

Principles of Assessment:

Assessment was always based on Pahani or actual inspection. Shivaji fixed the government demand at two-fifth of the produce in kind per bigha.[1] Annaji Datto had fixed the rent of Thirtythree per cent of the gross produce, but Shivaji afterwards demanded a consolidated rent of forty per cent, when all the taxes and extra cesses had been abolished.[2] The assessment varied according to the quality of land and the type of crops raised. The variations in assessment according to the quality of land can be understood from a letter belonging to a later period. The black soil was assessed at two maunds per bigha,[3] and the Bagayat land which raised grains were assessed at five maunds per bigha.[4] The average assessment for the barron land was one and a quarter maunds per bigha.[5] Even the Jirayat land, it appears, was divided in Awal (superior), Dum (ordinary) and Sim (inferior) and was assessed accordingly. The Awal Jirayat land, the Dum Jirayat land and the Sim Jirayat land were

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1. Sabhasad, p.26.
2. Jervis, op.cit., p.93.
3. Shivacharitra Sahitya, Vol. VIII, p.26.
4. Ibid.,
5. Ibid.,

assessed respectively at thirteen, nine and about five maunds.[1] Vasad or uncultivable waste lands were usually excluded when a village was assessed.[2] Before making the assessment the Peshwa Government sent survey and inspection parties in the village and paraganas frequently. Till the completion of survey work or inspection, the Peshwa Government paid Amin and Karkun rupees eight each per month.[3]

The practice of Nazar Pahani or appraisal (eye inspection) existed in Malik Ambar's system. He took only arable land into consideration to fix the average yield. In the revenue records for assessment, the following three catagories are mentioned (1) Land held by one person (2) Land held by two persons (Dumala) and (3) Land given to religious institutions. Then after deducting the above land the rest of the Khalsa land had been estimated for the assessment. Shivaji accepted and adopted Malik Amber's system which lasted for many years till the end of the Maratha period.

Shivaji introduced new measurements which was called Shivshahi Kathi, five cubic and five fists long. He continued Bighas as a unit for measuring land. This scale was adopted by Todarmal and Malik Amber previously. The table given below was adopted by Shivaji.[4]

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1. *Shivacharitra Sahitya*, Vol.VII, p.67.
2. Rajwade, *M.I.S.*, Vol.20, L.94.
3. Ibid, Vol.3, L.330.
4. *Selections from the Records of Bombay Government, CXCVII*, Dowell's note, p.42.

25 fingers - 1 cubit
$5\frac{5}{7}$ cubits - 1 Rod
20 Rods - 1 Paud
20 Pauds - 1 Bigha

The assessment was, therefore, known as Bigoti or Bighoni because the Bigha was taken into consideration for assessment. Shivashahi Kathi was five cubit and five fists long i.e. 114.035 English inches.

Major Jervis, the well known critic of Maratha land revenue system, explains that though Shivaji made the rent of the land 50 per cent of the gross produce (बटाई), he did not collect the same in practice. It actually was 50 per cent because of this big measurement. The land in bighas were and of course assessed more moderately and measured less what they were actually in possession. Shivaji instructed his officers that they should not accept cash in lieu of commodities.[1]

✓ The main features of Shivaji's settlement were :

1. New Bigha
2. New measurement of Shivashahi Kathi.
3. Classification of land taking various factors.
4. Aim of well being of the peasant and removal of intermediaries.

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1. Awalaskar, Shivcharitra Sahitya, Vol.X, L.55.

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5. Implementation of Tankha Rakba.
6. Option of paying rental in cash or kind.
7. Moderate land tax.
8. Emphasis on the cultivator to love his land.

During Sambhaji's time, Kalusha sought unlimited power over the entire Konkan. Kalusha did not follow Annaji's system and he raised the taxes. They were levied by rough methods. The evil of farming the whole territory was started by Kalusha. The new untrained officers were appointed and the Districts were farmed out for half the amount of the produce. For the first six years, this grivious practice was continued till he was caught at Sangameshwar, one of the important markets of the district.

Besides rice and cereals, the Konkan lands are noted for their garden cultivation. The Konkan is famous for coconuts and the betelnuts. These two have occupied about 95 percent land of Kolaba and Ratnagiri Districts. Urid and black grain is sown all over the Konkan. Til, Val are also sown in Konkan

" The Principles adopted in rating garden lands were more complicated. The trees were counted and money rate applied to each fruit-bearing tree, the aggregate of such rates being the assessment of the garden. To obtain the cash rate per coconut tree, a certain quality of coconut was fixed as the Government share. The quantity was commuted into a cash rate at fixed prices; what those prices were it is impossible to say. We have a scale of rates for garden produce in 1775. The jack tree paid at the rate of three annas per tree; a pan-creeper at 12 annas per 100 plants; toddy-producing trees one rupee per tree; coconut palms from 50 to 2½ nuts according to the quality of the tree; and supari (betel-nut) paid from 2½ seers to one-eighth of a seer according to the quality of the tree".[1]

During the Peshwa regime Mango trees in bagayat lands, it was laid down, should not be assessed separately. Mango trees belonging to Patils and others should be inspected when they bagan to bear fruit, and taxed at the rate of rupee one per thousand fruits.[2] The Government charged different rates for different lands and crops. The villages in taluka Neral were assessed after the usual/inspection in 1772-73.[3]

In 1767-68, land of Balambhat Godbole, a villager of Chambharli, in tarf Tungantan of Prant Karnala was charged at the rate of rupees five, annas two and half per bigha.[4] Bagayat land was assessed at the rate of rupees ten per bigha.[5]

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1. Choksey, Economic Life in the Bombay Konkan, p.41-42.
2. Vad, Peshwa Diary, Vol.III, 339.
3. Ibid., Vol.VII, 418.
4. Ibid., 413.
5. Ibid., Vol. VI, 721.

The Maratha Government demanded ten maund rice per bigha from the land-holder of tarf Wasi and Pen in Paragana Sanksi.[1] Sometimes the bagayat and Jirayat lands[2] were assessed equally by the government for the improvement of agriculture.

The rayat of Rajapur did not process any grain and, therefore, they were allowed to make cash payment at the rate of rupees fifteen per Khandi.[3] Naro Keshav of tarf Nanamaval and Ponmav also requested the government that a part of the arrears of land revenue in kind would be allowed to be paid in cash.[4]

In the B.I.S.M. report different rates were charged for different crops and pulses during the period of Tulaji Angre (1744-54).[5] Rice was charged at the rate of 20 per Khandi, Naghiat Rs.18; Wari at Rs.13.33; Till at Rs.50/- Chawali Kadve and Kulith at Rs.30, Til (black) 48.01, Pawate, Mug at Rs. 40 per khandi. Similarly, the assessment was fixed at the rate of five maunds per Khandi in kind.[6] For one Khandi of grain produced, the assessment was five maunds. The assessment, therefore, was in the proportion of one-fifth of the produce, as usually twenty maunds made a

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1. Vad, *Peshwa Diary*, Vol. VI, 720.
2. *Ibid.*, Vol. V, 194.
3. *Ibid.*, Vol. III, 356, 357.
4. *Ibid.*, 363.
5. *B.I.S.M., Annual Report of* Shaka *1835*, pp.323-27.
6. *Ibid.*

Khandi. After some time it was assessed in cash by the Government[1] at per Khandi rate : Rice at Rs.17; Wari at Rs.15 and Warli at Rs.12 per Khandi rate.

The Patil and Kulkarni of Mauje Rajapur complained to the Peshwa Government that the Kamavisdar made heavy collections in Mokasa Babti and Sardeshmukhi and due to the drought the whole village suffered.[2] The government laid down that collections less than the usual collections be made and step should be taken to see that land was properly cultivated.[3] The Patil had the judicial powers in the village. He tried to settle the disputes among the villagers amicably. If the dispute could not be settled among the parties, the Patil summoned the Panchayat to settle the dispute. The disputes regarding the bounderies of the village were settled by the Patil. The Panch ordered the Patil of the village Balapur to walk over the old boundary with cow's hide on his head and also to stand an ordeal for fifteen nights.[4] Afterwards, the boundary as shown by the Patil was confirmed. It was the duty of the Patil to bring land under cultivation in the village even when it was burnt and plundered by the army.[5] The Patil and Kulkarni were held responsible for the amount of revenue to be collected from the village.

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1. Ibid.
2. Peshwa Diary, Vol.6, p.714.
3. Ibid.
4. B.I.S.M., 3rd Sammelan Vritta, p.51.
5. Peshwa Diary I, p.280.

Warqus or Donger land were assessed by the hal or plough and not by the bigha.[1] The assessment probably depended on the number of ploughs used.

Two types of assessments were made by the Government. One was the assessment according to the quality of land, and the second was, assessment according to the crops raised.

In Konkan rates for rice changed from place to place Rice crops at Kharepatan and Poladpur village were assessed at the rate of ten maunds per bigha for superios land and eight maunds per bigha for waste land. At Devruk the rate was at seven and a half maunds per bigha.[2]

Collection of Revenue

Land revenue was collected twice in a year, once after the rabi harvest in May, and secondly after the Kharif harvest in October. Revenue was collected in kind and in cash also. The revenue officers were fully responsible for any mistake, made in the collection of revenue. Shivaji laid down that the Karkun should collect revenue according to the production of each crop. They should see that the rayat was in no way troubled by Jamindar, Deshmukh and Desai. This was an improvement over the system existing under Nizamshahi and Adilshahi when the entire rayat was under the thumb of Patil, Kulkarni and Deshmukh.[3]

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1. Aitihasik Sadhane, L.66.
2. Rajwade, M.I.S., Vol. 21, L.47.
3. Sabhasad, p.26.

Shivaji controlled corruption in the revenue administration. He warned the Subhedar of Prabhavali Mamla[1] that he should not appropriate anything for himself. He should be loyal to the state and should not be interested even in a stem of vegetable. The officers should never extract more than what was due from the cultivators.[2] Revenue officials collected the revenue in kind from the cultivators at the time of harvest. It was laid down by Shivaji that it should be stored properly and sold at proper time. The revenue officials were directed not to press cultivators for the arrears and to fix the rates of assessment in accordance with the condition of crop.[3]

Encouragement to Cultivator

Shivaji encouraged the cultivators in natural calamities like famine, flood and scarcity and also at the time of movement of the army; He always strove for the well-being of the cultivators and the improvement of agriculture. He provided all necessary facilities to the cultivators such as cattle, seeds, money and agricultural implements[4]. Sometimes cultivators received money from the government not only for agricultural operations but also for their maintenance. Sabhasad metions an order of Shivaji by

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1. Shivcharitra Sahitya, Vol. IX, L.55
2. Ibid., Vol. V, L.996.
3. Ibid.
4. Vakaskar (Ed), Sabhasad Bakhar, p.26.

which rayat newly coming to the village were to be given cattle, grain and money for seeds. Shivaji endeavoured to protect the cultivators from the tyrannical exactions of the hereditary officials.[1]

He tried to bring uncultivated waste land under the plough. The newly cultivated land was assessed at gradually increasing rate. It was the usual practice that the cultivator who brought waste land under cultivation, should pay one twelth of a ruka per bigha in the first year, one fourth ruka in the second year, one half in the third, three-fourth in the fourth, four rukas in the fifth, eight rukas in the sixth, and one rupee in the seventh year and finally the regular revenue should be collected.[2] These concessions in assessment were, thus, for seven years. When lower rates of assessment were laid down for the cultivator there could be a year when crop would fail (Nukasan Sal). The amount for that year was deducted from the total revenue demand.[3] If a cultivator came in difficulty at the time of the payment of revenue, the amount of revenue and government dues were reduced.[4] Shivaji ordered the subhedar of Prabhavali mamla to visit each and every village in his region and collect the farmers together. The Subhedar, Shivaji ordered, should help cultivators who

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1. Vakaskar (Ed), Sabhasad Bakhar, p.26.
2. Vakaskar, 91 Kalami Bakhar, p.21.
3. Shivcharitra Sahitya, VII, L.50.
4. Ibid.

had no bullocks and plough and grain by providing all the requirements for raising crops and grain from the subsistence of cultivators. The Subhedar was not to charge any interest on the amount thus forwarded to the cultivators.[1]

Due to the movement of the army, the crops in the fields and family of the cultivator suffered. In such circumstances, the cultivators left their villages and cultivation was rendered impossible. The Government, induced new cultivators to settle down in such villages by exempting them from house tax and land revenue.[2] By 1739, the Marathas came into sole possession of the Konkan. We shall discuss the revenue administration of the Konkan during the Maratha regime. The revenue policy of the Marathas was leased on the principle of securing the prosperity of the tax-payer.

The Patil was responsible for revenue collection. As else where in the Deccan so in Konkan when the time for collection came, the Mahar called the rent-payers to the village Chawdi where the Patil held his office the Mahar's duty was to watch the fields, to keep cattle to carry out the Patil's orders, and to act as porter. Before the introduction of the farming system of revenue in Konkan by Bajirao II all hereditary revenue district officers such as Mahar, Patil,

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1. Shivcharitra Sahitya, IX, L.55.
2. Rajwade, M.I.S., Vol.18, L.12.

Kulkarni, Sarhavaldar, Jamenis, Deshmukh, Deshpande were there in Konkan. The duties of these officials are explained in brief. In Konkan some places Kulkarni was there but at many places there was a Talati or village accountant. He had charge of from eight to ten villages and was paid from Rs.120 to 180 a year. It was his duty to visit each village every month, to see to the people's wents and interests, to furnish accounts to the Kamanisdar and to give each land holder an account showing his dues and payments.[1] The Patil came next in importance. His duties were to report new settlers in his village, to stimulate cultivation, to help in the rent settlement, to gather the village rental and to pay if to the Kamavisdar's office. He was vested with the powers of the police officer and it was his duty to settle disputes and protect the Ryot from oppression. His emoluments veried from place to place. In Kalyan taluka he got two-thirds of the proceeds of the five percent charge on the village revenue. In the coastal tracts, he was paid in land from half a bigha to ten or even twenty bighas.[2]

Kulkarni:

In the contemporary records Kulkarni has been called as Gaonkulkarni.[3] Along with Patil, Kulkarni was an important person who had duties and rights in the village. Documents like the sale-deed, mortage-deed and Kowlnamas regarding the watans in the village were to be written by the Kulkarni. While writing these documents the Patil was to be given the information and the Patil probably attended the meeting when the documents were written. The Patil was also to take Kulkarni in confidence in the administration of the village. The collection of the revenue and the expenditure on account of village were to be done by the Patil and Kulkarni unitedly.[1] The Kulkarni was to write the complaints made by the parties to a dispute. He was to get some amount of money as his fee. As has been already noted, the Patil and Kulkarni were held responsible for the collection of revenue in the village. In case they failed, they were sometimes kept under confinement till the payment of amount on account of revenue.[2] After deducting the government dues and miscellaneous expenditure in the village the remaining amount was to be shared by Patil and Kulkarni.[3]

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[1] Choksey, Economic Life in the Bombay Konkan, p.19.
[2] Ibid.
[3] Vad, Peshwa Diaries, Vol.3, Para 4.

Deshmukh and Deshpande :

The traditional duties of these officials as existing under Shivaji continued under the Peshwas in Konkan. The Deshmukh and the Deshpande were in charge of district and supposed to be the friends of the rayats, and to encourage

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1. B.I.S.Mandal, Shast Semelan Vritta, p.117.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid.

the cultivator. In 1760-61 the rayats of prant Rajapuri were in a state of consternation on account of disturbance created by the Sidi and, therefore, their lands remained uncultivated. The Jamindars (Deshmukh and Deshpande), Khots and Patils, therefore, came to the Huzur at Poona and prayed that the land of the province might be inspected and that assessment should be levied in the year according to the findings in the inspection.[1] The cultivators were given concession according to the request of Deshmukh and Deshpande.[2] They were also to keep a register of all new grants of transfer of property either by the government or by individuals. They were used as a check on the Mamlatdar, and no accounts were passed unless corroborated by corresponding accounts from them.

Sarhavaldar :

In Konkan Sarhavaldar was appointed by Peshwa in charge of Mahal or tarf. He was connected with the revenue matters. Tarf Anjanwel in 1785 was under Laxuman Ballal Sarhavaldar and the duties of Sarhavaldar were laid down in a document.[3] The Sarhavaldar should be one of the officers sent to settle the Jamabandi of the taluka or [illegible] any inquiry connected with it. No revenue or account matter should be disposed of without the advice of the Sarhavaldar. Any reduction in the revenue

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1. Vad, Peshwa Diary, Vol.3, p.352.
2. Ibid., Vol.7, p.430.
3. Ibid., Vol.8, p.842.

was accepted only on the recommendation of Sarhavaldar. He also assisted the judge in deciding the judicial cases.

Jamenis :

During the Peshwaship of Madhavrao the First, the office of Jamenishi was entrusted to Balkrishna Hari and his duties were elaborated in a document.[1] The records of the inspection of jirayat and bagayat lands by inspecting officers, should be laid by them before the Jamenis. It was the duty of the Jamenis to fix the revenue demand after such an inquiry and then to report the matter to the Karbhari. The Jamenis should receive all revenue accounts and watch the closing of all the accounts. He was to carefully note the collections and arrears of the revenue. He had authority to increase the revenue of the village and to grant remissions in the revenue for a few years. The orders for the recovery of arrears from village were to be issued by the Jamenis. The Kowls for the abatement of revenue were to be issued by the Jamenis. A Khatavani (ledger) showing the amount received and the amount due from each village, was to be got written by the Jamenis from the daily ledger of the Fadnis. The duties of the Jamenis in the matters of octroi have been specifically laid down in a document of the year 1786.[2] The Jamenis was to fix the amount of octroi to

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1. Peshwa Diary, Vol. 7, 520.
2. Ibid., 780.

be levied under the orders of the Mamlatdars and in the presence of the land holders. When the octroi was given in monopoly the draft agreement was to be written by the Jamenis. Another important work of the Jamenis was to fix the amounts to be collected from the traders. These amounts though written by the Jamenis, were to be endorsed by the Mamlatdars and Majumadars. Similarly, the Kowls given to the traders were written by the Jamenis, but they were to bear the symbols of Fadnis, Majumdar and Mamlatdar. All the matters of revenue, like Jamabandi, survey, income and arrears were to be handled by the Jamenis. The government gave strict orders to the Karkuns serving in the office of Jamenis to obey the orders of the Jamenis. The Karkuns who did not follow the orders of the Jamenis were to be transferred. The Jamenis, therefore, seems to be a very important small officer at the tarf level.

Kamavisdar and Mamlatdar :

A significant change in the revenue system seems to have been introduced by the last Peshwa. This was the introduction of the Makhta system by which fixed amount of money was taken as the revenue of the pargana. Officials holding the Makhta or monopoly are referred to in the contemporary Marathi records.[1] Under the farming system of revenue the stipandiary officers like Kamavisdar and Mamlatdar became revenue contractors and the chief power in the village was in the hands of the body of men called

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1. *Ibid.*, Vol. 3, 414, 424, 425.

the Khots.[1]

Malpractices of Mamlatdar and Kamavisdar :

A number of governmental orders are available in our records which reflect upon the malpractices of these officials. Sometimes the Mamlatdar used to send swars and plunder the villages in the pargana. The understanding between the rayat and the officials like Mamlatdar was necessary for the good administration of pargana. When the rayat complained to the government about such officials steps were taken by the government to appoint officials who would be acceptable to the rayat.[2] The Kamavisdars and Mamlatdars sometimes followed corrupt practices. As the Kamavisdar of mamla Rajapur made heavy charges on the rayat and in view of the shortage of rain the village was reduced to the poverty. When Patil and Kulkarni complained to the government against Kamavisdar, the government changed the Kamavisdar ordering the new Kamavisdar to see that lands in the village were properly cultivated.[3] In a similar case Sadashiv Raghunath Ghanekar collected an additional amount of rupees twenty five thousand in the year 1771 but this amount was not shown in the accounts. The government, therefore, ordered an inquiry regarding the income from the different villages, the arrears and the tagai given.[4]

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1. Choksey, *op.cit.*, p. 18.
2. Rajwade, *M.I.S.* Vol. 14, L. 93.
3. *Peshwa Diary*, Vol. 6, 714.
4. *Ibid.*, Vol. 2, 465.

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LAND TENURES IN KONKAN

Khoti, Dharekaris and upris

Under the Peshwas there were three classes of villages (1) Khoti villages (2) Peasant held Dharekari (3) mixed khichadi i.e. part rented and part peasant held villages.

The Khoti tenure was existing in Konkan from the 16th Century till 1949 when it was abolished.

A definition of the word Khoti in Molesworth's Dictionary * is a renter of a village; a farmer of land or revenue; a founder of the customs, also a contractor or monopolist. Khot had a hereditary right to collect rent and pay it to Government. Alongwith the responsibility of collecting revenue the Khot also enjoyed customary honours, privilages etc., which are explained later. The Sanads and documents found in the Peshwa Daftar are printed in the Bombay Government Selection entitled "Papers regarding the Proprietary Rights of Khots in the Ratnagiri District in the Bombay Presidency"[1]. They are studied and found that the Khot's rights extended over all the things in the village, not as an actual holder or occupant or owner but as a Watandar, whose main business was to encourage cultivation, collect rent, and pay it to Government. From these Khoti Sanads a reader can infer that the grant of Khoti was

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*.Molesworth's Marathi-English Dictionary (1975) p.216.

1. Selections from the Records of the Bombay Government No.CCCCXLVI-New Series,

not regarded as alienating important State rights - just like hereditary gaokars in Sawantwadi, or Patels in the Deccan, there were hereditary Khots in Konkan. The collection or rent for Government was their principal business and was a common feature of the three Watans.

Now let us know the existence of Khots in India. The terms was used in Northern India at Delhi and the Doab. Before Alauddin Khilji's rule at Delhi the men of highest stratum among the peasants were called Khots, Muqaddams and headmen. The term Khot remained in use in the Doab until the middle of the sixteenth century,[1] While it had a longer survival in Gujarat and the Deccan.[2] During the rule of the Khiljis they levied a cess of their own on the villagers. As a result, some of the Khots became prosperous enough to ride horses, wear fine clothes and even eat betel leaf.[3] Alauddin prohibited the Khots from levying any cess and forced them to pay the full land tax on their cultivated lands; he also levied Ghari on every horse and chari on every head of milet cattle, thus not exempting the Khots' heir as well. They were vigorously supervised. Ghiyasuddin Tughluq (1321-26) exempted them from paying tax on their own cultivation and cattle.[1] During the time of Firuz Tughluq, all ristrictions on them were abolished and the Khots became rich, having horses, cattle, and sufficient food-grains in their houses.

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[1] Tapan Ray Chaudhari and Irfan Habib, *The Cambridge Economic History of India*, Vol.I, p.14.

[2] Moreland, *Agrarian System of Moslem India*.

[3] Tapan Ray Chaudhari and Irfan Habib, *op.cit.*, p.55.

As stated in the Revenue Department unpublished Volume,[2] the first introduction of the Khots in Konkan took place in 1502 A.D. In that year Mustapha Khan was deputed by Usuf Adil Shah, the 1st King of Bijapur, to administer the affairs of the Subhedari of Dabhol in Konkan extending from Savitri River to the Southern boundary of Salsee. By many of the Kowls, the Desais, Kulkarnis and Deshpandes of that period were confirmed in their Watans. This shows that these offices were in existence even before that time. In order to satisfy this useful class of revenue employees, the Bijapur Government thought it necessary to recognize them. In these documents it runs thus: such and such person, Desai or whatever it might be, having accepted the offer of the Government and notifies all his claims, is confirmed in his Watan. In the year 1514 we find that Khoti of two villages were confirmed on one Krishnaji Keshav and his son Gopal Krishnaji Sardesai of Saitwade Mahal.[3] There is also a Kaulnama issued by the Bijapur King to Anantnayak Bin

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1. Ibid.
2. No.48/670 of 1835, pp.159-161; Captain Wingate's Report on Survey and assessment for Ratnagiri, p.9, Para 20.
3. Sardesai, Mavalankar Gharanyancha Itihas - Adil Shahi Firman, Lekh, 2, p.11.

Narnayak Desai, about Khoti of Bankot in 1553 asking him to persuade Rayat of the Village to come back and resettle in the Village by giving remission in the taxes.[1]

It is also noticed in the Mavalankar Gharanyacha Itihas that the Khoti Inam of the Village Kalwade, Pere Visapur and Walwali were granted before 1586 A.D. By the Government order of 4 February 1659 the chaugulas and villagers of the village Kalbani from the Pargana of Jalarabad of Kolaba District were instructed to continue the Khoti of the village and try for its prosperity[2] of Khoti Sanads found in the Peshwa Daftar for the period 1693 to 1818 is given in the Government selection mentioned above. From the gists of the Sanads therein, it is understood that in the year 1693 a village of Walwati in Taluka Chiplun was granted in Khoti to Hari Krishna Deshkulkarni[3] Watandar. In the year 1737 Bhikaji Mahadik and others were granted Mauza Nirbade of Taluka Chiplun in Khoti in order that they should ensure and encourage cultivation. The Grantees were asked to induce cultivators to settle in the village, increase cultivation and continue regularly to collect the rent at a rate prevailing in the Mahal. It was invariably the practice of the Peshwas and their predecessors to communicate the issue of Sanads of Inams or Watans to Villages, whether in the Konkan or above the Ghats, the orders

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1. Ibid.,
2. Awalaskar, Aitihasik Sadhane, L.52, p.28.
3. Bombay Government Selection CCCCXLVI (N.S.), p.166.

were addressed in the name of Mukadam. The officers so addressed in the Konkan were Khots.[1]

The Khoti sanad which was granted in respect of some Villages in the Deccan shows that in the Deccan, Khoti and Patilki were convertible terms.[2] In 1739 Mamalatdar of Dabhol issued a Sanad to one Krishnaji Gangaji Rao Dalvi of Village Kokare continuing the grant of Khoti Watan. In the Sanad he was asked to enjoy hereditarity Khoti Watan of the same Village.[2]

In 1689 Chhatrapati Rajaram issued a Sanad removing Krishnaji Godi from the Khoti of Mauze Palu Tarf Deolen and granted it to Vithal Narayan who was asked to continue the existing arrangement for the cultivation of the Village land.[3]

In the year 1725 Chhatrapati Shahu issued an order to Govind Yesaji and others saying that the four Villages of Lajul, Narame, Upale and Davakhole which were held as Watani by them should be continued as Khoti.[4]

The document dated 1742 A.D. published in the Government publication will show that the word Khoti was used even where no land was concerned :-

"The Khoti of the customs of Tarf Goregao was given last year to Bhago Bahirao, this year it is taken from him and given to

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1. Ibid.
2. Ibid., p.130, item 6.
3. Ibid., p.130, item 7.
4. Ibid., p.131, item 8.

Shaikh Mahamad Nadkar both as regards land and sea customs including the tax on horned cattle as well as the taxes called Thalbharit* and Thalmod**".[1] This document shows that the word Khot was used in connection with items of revenue which had not the remotest connection with land.

Another document reproduced in Appendix B, p.32 shows clearly that Khoti meant nothing more than collection of Government revenue and its payment to Government and that they exercised the right of creating, in respect to independent items of revenue, independent Watani Khots in a village which already had a Khot. Another document published at Appendix C shows that the words 'Mirasi Khoti' and 'Watan Khoti' are identical in sense.

A document at Appendix D speaks that in one and the same Village there were two Khoti Watans (1) Bhandari Khots (2) Brahmin or other Khots.[2] In the Konkan, Khots were treated by the Peshwas as Village servants just as the Patels and Kulkarnis in the Deccan.[3] Like Patels and Kulkarnis, the Khots had salary in cash,[4] land or both, attached to their Watans[5] and lastly during the time of the Peshwas, in Watani Khoti

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* Duties upon goods at the place of purchase.

** Duties upon brought goods at the place of sale or duties upon imports.

[1] Bombay Government Selection, CCCCXLVI, p.22.

[2] Ibid., 23.

[3] Ibid., p.22, item 11.

[4] Ibid., p.118, Khots in certain Villages in Taluka Anjanvel (Chiplun) were in receipt of service remuneration.

[5] Ibid., p.22, item (12).

Villages lands were given away to persons other than Khots either in (1) Kauli or (2) in Inam.[1] So also Khots, Mukadams and Patels were regarded as officers having the same duties to perform and the same responsibilities to bear.

In 1727 by the order of Chhatrapati Shahu two villages viz: Mauza Azar and Bardi were granted to Govind Thakur Desai and was asked to render Khoti services.[2] Chhatrapati Shahu issued orders in 1734 to the Deshmukh, Deshpande and Sarkhel Sambhaji Angre asking them to allow to continue enjoyment of Khoti Villages of Pathardi, Wadoli, Shivane, Pachal and Watul to the respective Khots on the old tenure.[3] In the year 1748 Khoti Watan of Village Pur, Turf Devrukh was restored to one Balaji Dhonddeo Khandekar and his descendants hereditarily and was asked to live happily, enjoying Watan Haks, cesses, and inam according to ancient custom.[4]

It is a general belief that the Khoti system was prevelent in Ratnagiri District of Konkan. Early British Officers like Chaplin, Wingate, Collector J.A.Dunlop, Collector Reid, Leiut. Dowell and Wingate who had worked on the origin and nature of the Khoti system have endorsed this notion by dealing with Khots in Ratnagiri District. But there are some

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1. Ibid., p.22.

2. B.G.Selection, CCCCXLVI (N.S.), p.131, item 9.
3. Ibid., p.131, item 10.
4. Ibid., item 12.

documents regarding Khoti, in the Peshwa Daftar, Pune in the Dakshin Konkan Prant Ajamas Rumals 650 to 655. From these documents we understand that there were Khots in Kalyan Prant of Thana District and in Kolaba District also during the Peshwa regime. In support of the above statement, a gist of some documents which all found in the Peshwa Daftar rumal No. 650 of 'Konkan Prant Ajmas'is given below.

By the order of 28th August, 1752 of Pant Pradhan Gun (गुण) Mahajani Desai of Mithgavanekari was granted Khoti Watan of two Villages of Prant Kalyan Bhivandi.[1] In the Rozkird dated 3rd December 1752 of Pant Pradhan Village Tembheri Taluka Bankhal in Prant Kalyan was given in Khoti to one Naro Ramchandra.[2] In the Dafata Patra of Pant Pradhan dated 9th February 1754, two villages were granted as Khoti Inam to Jivaji Ganesh of Prant Rajapur.[3]

In the letter of 10th November 1755 issued to Ragho Ganesh Kose by the Pant Pradhan it is stated that Khoti of the four Villages of Borivali, Nalandhe, Kashele, Egavali was removed from Havaldar and given to him (Ragho Ganesh Kose) with all rights to collect revenue according to usuage and credit to the Government.[4] In 1763 Khoti of Mauze Tural, Taluka Sangameshwar was restored to Antaji Bhikaji and others.[5]

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1. Appendix A.
2. *Ibid.*, B
3. *Ibid.*, C.
4. *Ibid.*, D.
5. *B.G. Selection*, CCCCXLVI (N.S.), p. 131, item 14.

There is also an order of Pant Pradhan to the servants of Kolabkar Angre for collecting revenue of Village Talegaon, Tarf Waji of Kalyan Prant at 2 annas per rupee according to assessment rates from the Khoti Bagayati land. It should be raised to 1½ Khandi.[1] The Khots were given the sanads granting in some of them proprietory rights and in some the right for the use of words Jamin Jumala and the grant of such rights.

We have noticed Khots in Kalyan Prant of Thana district and in Kolaba district. We also come across in the Government Selection that in the Ratnagiri district about 1273 Villages were managed by the Khots during the Peshwas' time. They are classified as follows[2]:-

1.	Pure Khoti	969
2.	Khichdi (Mixed Dhara and Khoti)	134
3.	Pure Dhara held by Khots	170
	Total Villages managed or manageable by the Khots	1273

These Villages were in the five northern Talukas of (1) Dapoli, (2) Khed, (3) Chiplun, (4) Ratnagiri and (5) Sangameshwar. The Khoti was stronger in the northern Talukas of Ratnagiri District than in the South of Ratnagiri.[3]

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1. Appendix E of this Thesis.
2. B.G. Selection, CCCCXLVI, (N.S.), Appendix A 2.
3. Ibid., p. 140.

Duties of Khots :

The Khots had to collect rent, to make Pahani (appraisement of crops) and other administrative business for which he wanted a control over the existing village establishment. Pant Pradhan issued orders on 28th October 1760 that Khoti of the following villages in Taluka Herdi Prant Kalyan, Dahivali, Talwade, Selu, Kodivale, Birdale, Malegaon and Bokar was granted to Appaji Shivaji and Awadhutrao Adhikari. They should carry out the Khoti work by appointing a clerk.[1] A letter from Pant Pradhan dated 18th November 1760 stated that the Village Bamhanas of Pargana Nasarapur Prant Kalyan was removed from the then Khot and was bestowed as Khoti Inam to Vedmurti Balambhat Nitsure from whom Sadashiv Chimanaji should realise revenue and rent of the village according to rates prevelent in the past.[2]

Pant Pradhan issued following orders of 2nd December 1760 to Ramji Mahadeo as follows: "There was Khoti dispute of village Karajgaon, Tarf Panchnadi of Taluka Kalyan between Balaji Keshav Bedekar and Damodar Krishna Karmarkar which was referred to Pant Pradhan. It was found that during the regime of the Angre Khoti of the Village was with Dabake and after the territory was taken over by the Sarkar, the same Village was assigned to Bedekar as Khoti for realising revenue etc. While during the regime of the Angre, Dabake and Karmarkar were Khots of the Village. Whereas at present the same Village

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1. Appendix F.
2. *Ibid.*, G.

was given as Khoti to Bedekar. Therefore the dispute which started was resolved by the Sarkar at Pune. Pending the decision of the Sarkar, revenue of the Village should be realised and credited to Government by keeping the Khoti in suspense.[1] Pant Pradhan issued an order dated 7th January 1761 that the Khoti of Village Tebhari, Tarf Vankhal of Prant Kalyan was bestowed to Laxman Keshav Daftardar. He should realise revenue according to the rates prevelent in the Prant.

In the following two documents Khoti is referred to as service Watan. A letter dated 10th Samvat 1165 Suhur (1764-65 A.D.) was addressed to Moroji Shinde Namjad of Taluka Ratnagiri by the Pant Pradhan in which Khoti Watan of Mauza Kapadgaon Taluka Hathkhamba was granted to Bhatavedkar and separate Niwadapatra was given to him as muniment of title. The addressee was asked to get all the work and duties pertaining to Khoti Watan of the aforesaid village performed by the said person.[2] Another letter given below regarding ancient Khotship and Hardi speaks of Khoti as a service Watan.[3] "Govind Thakur Desai, Tarf Rajapur, held the ancient Khotis of Villages of Ozar and Hardi. His servants who performed the Khoti for two to three years claimed as Mirasdar Khot of those Villages. On verification, the servants' claim was found false. His (Govind Thakur Desai's) both villages should be made over to him, and the service of the Khot should be taken from him."[4]

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1. Appendix H.
2. B.G. Selection, CCCCXLVI (N.S.), p. 169.
3. Ibid., p. 180.
4. Ibid., p. 169 (9), dated 1727-28.

The following accounts show that Khots used to receive Mushahire (emoluments[1]).

Memorandum of the recoveries and balance of the Inams and haks Mushahira (emoluments) etc. were ordered to be collected for the Sarkar for one year, Sur year 1176 (A.D. 1775-76). Mushahira (emoluments) to Khots, Kulkarnis and others were as follows [2]:

Rs	A.	P.	
729	11	6	Kulkarni Mushahira
177	15	3	Khot's Mushahira in different villages.
907	10	9	Total[3]

The accounts in another documents of Suhur year 1176 (A.D. 1775) show that the Khots were given Mushahira in cash as well as in land.[4] The following documents shows that the Khots all over the district used to receive service remuneration[5] : "By letter 26 Jamadilakhar (11th July 1779) Khots of Village Itane Tarf Kelshi represented to the Hazur that as the Khots of the different Villages in the aforesaid Prant had to undergo trouble in connection with the Villages, their Mushahira Salaries or service remuneration had been fixed out and that they have no fixed salaries. On their representation the Swami (Peshwa) fixed the allowance payable to them for their service of at Rs. 10/- per year from that year and Sanad was issued.[6] " We also understand

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1. B.G. Selection, CCCCXLVI (N.S.), pp. 107-109.
2. Ibid., p. 41.
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid., pp. 71-72.
5. Ibid.
6. Ibid., pp. 110-113.

from the following memorandum which is given in the Selection that the Khoti Villages were subject to quinquennial surveys. "Memorandum at Taluka Ratnagiri under Mahipatrao Krishna, 16, Rajab, Bhadrapad, year 1175 (A.D. 1774)[1]" A Makta of the said Taluka had formerly been given out for five years. It expired in the year 1174 (A.D. 1773). Therefore, in the current year, the Makta should be given out from the Subha for five years after making all estimate of the rice and garden cultivation and the cash assessment over the Villages, reducing where it is less and increasing where it is more, so that on the average there should be no falling off from the amount of former years. According to that the Government will carry out (the settlement)[2]."

The former quinquennial period having terminated, a new quinquennial period should be commenced by the Subha. Kauls should be granted for lands which are fallow and should be brought under progressive assessment. In introducing a Makta improvement should be effected as far as possible in the above manner. The Maktadar should go at the village and give intimation to the Huzur through the Sir Subha. That the Khoti villages were subject to periodical surveys can be proved from the budget inspection memorandum (आडा अजमास) of the Taluka Vijaydurg in charge of Gangadhar Govind[3] (1787 A.D.).

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[1] *Ibid.*, Appendix A (I & II).

[2] *Ibid.*, p. 74.

[3] *Ibid.*, p. 75.

The Makta of the Mulki Jama bandi at the abovementioned Taluka was given for five years from Arba Sabain (1773) to Saman Sabain (1777). The Pahani which was to follow the expiration of that term, has not taken place. Collections are being made from year to year according to the total (बेरीज) of the last year of the Makta. - Therefore, Pahani should be made during the previous year and settlement of the Jamabandi be effected.

We also know from the records printed in the Government Selection that in the times of the Peshwas the jungle gurk (waste lands were granted on Kauli terms in the following villages belonging to Khots:[1]

Name of the Village and Date			Name of the Village and Date		
(1)	Chinchghur	1780	(2)	Kalbaste	1796
(3)	Mabhale	1798	(4)	Bhoste	1805
(5)	Takaoli	1809	(6)	Main	1810
(7)	Durgvadi	1813	(8)	Satere	1813
(9)	Bhingloli	1813	(10)	Tadil	1814
(11)	Nilwane	1815	(12)	Sadye	1815
(13)	Hedli	1816	(14)	Besghar	1817

We have seen that Khoti was a service Watan and the Khoti villages were subjected to quinquennial or septenial surveys. During the time of the last Peshwa, when the Talukas were farmed out by him to the Mamlatdars, the villages in return were farmed

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1. Bombay Government Selection, CCCCXLVI (N.S.), p.76.

out to the Khots by the Mamlatdar. It is also mentioned in the Selection that the following villages to which salaries in cash or lands were attached were pure Khoti.[1]

(1) Gondhale, (2) Aware, (3) Ranwi, (4) Rawari, (5) Kurchumle, (6) Bhile, (7) Palpene, (8) Kalbaste.

Captain Wingates in his "Report on Survey and assessment for Ratnagiri"[2] gives two classes of Khots (1) the Watandar Khots and (2) the Sarkari. The latter were liable to be at any time displaced by Government. The Watandar Khots, on the contrary maintained that they possessed an hereditary indefeasible right and that they cannot be dispossed. During the last day of the Marathas, depending on this point, they frequently pawned and sometimes sold their offices. Capt. Chaplain found from the Peshwa records that during the last days of the Peshwa the Khots were the farmers of the Village revenue[3] and that they officiated as heads of the Villages.[4]

It is mentioned by Capt. Chaplin and Lt., Dowel in their reports on Khoti land that the most of the Khots were Brahmins. My study reveals that during the early period of Maratha regime there were Bhandari Khots, Desai Khots, Maratha Khots and Brahmin Khots. The Brahmins came in by sale and mortagage and by grant in later times especially during the Peshwas.

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1. B.G.Selection, CCCCXLV(New Series),p.54, Appendix K.
2. Wingates' Report, p.9, para 20.
3. Choksey, Economic Life in Bombay Konkan, p.9.
4. Choksey, Ratnagiri Collectorate, pp.ii and 72-73.

The Watandar Khots were liable at any time to be dispossessed by Government. A khot naturally had no hereditary right to his Khotship, and unless protected by specific grant or Sanad he was not secure in the possession of his village. It is also believed that the Khoti was only prevelent in Ratnagiri District. From the documents mentioned above, we understand that Khoti was prevelent in Kalyan Taluka of Thana District, in Pen and Panvel of Kolaba District. It is also seen from the documents that the majority of tenants in Konkan had paid in kind; the general rate was half the crop, though higher rents were known, with the Khot paying the land revenue. This system was of course particularly advantageous to the Khots when prices were rising. It is noticed from the documents that Khots had proprietary rights. During the last Peshwas' time the Khot is seen collecting a special remuneration called "Khotfaida"[1], (खोत फायदा), which amounted to two or three times the land revenue, from quasidhardaris and occupancy tenants and he continued to exact free labour (Wethbigar) from his tenants, excepting former owner cultivators. The result was that due to oppression and demands on him by the Khots, the peasants used to migrate in search of a more liberal landlord. In these poor districts of Konkan, the peasant was made poorer by the Khot's exactions.

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1. Choksey, Economic Life in the Bombay Konkan, p.123.

This is in contrast to the early attitude of Musthfa (1502) where the tenants were encouraged to settle in land by giving privileges to them.

According to Capt. Chaplin, Khot used to exhibit every year in his account what might have been levied from the Rayats so that Government should not know what they actually paid nor whether the Khot might gain or lose by his farm.[1] In order to improve the position of the tenant the British Government enacted the Khoti Settlement Act of 1904 and finally Khoti was abolished in 1949 by the Government.

Dharkari Tenure[2] :

There is another kind of tenure, which is called Dharkari tenure. Dharkaris were also the first settlers of the south, who had participated in the work of rehabilitation and bringing the land under cultivation. They had to pay the rent for their proprietery land which could not be taken away in any case, even if they did not pay the tax.

The land would remain on their names as their own holding and when they would pay the arrears, they would soon get the land in their possession. They did not have to do any Government service, so they may be called first class tenure but inferiour to Khoti tenure. In the first class tenur, we have to put gaonkars, Patils and Kulkarnies also. They had mirashi lands and they had more Inam lands as they rendered

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1. Captain Wingates' Report on Survey and Assessment for Ratnagiri, p. 9, para 20.
2. Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency, Ratnagiri, p. 227.

the services to the Government.[1] In the Konkan we see very few Patils and Khots who were performing their duties at many places. In one survey, out of 1337 there were 607 Khoti villages which had no Patils.

Inam Tenures[2]:

There is Inam tenure here, or persons who had gained lands in lieu of some services to the temple or other places. They could enjoy the land as far as they work for the Government. But the holding remains on their names, for generations together. Because their sons were also doing the same work, the Inam land was continued for years together on their names. But they could not sale or mortgage land as Dharkaries could do without the consent of the heirs. Though legally one could not mortgage the Inam land as it was not their proprietary holding, we see in many cases that it was frequently mortaged in terms of possessor's life.

There were three kinds of tenures in Konkan.

1. True Mirasdars - originating from the ancient monarchs.
2. Mirasdars originating from Bahamani Kings.
3. Dharekaris, who were the descenderts of the first settlers of the soil, who were the real cultivators and rent paying persons.
4. Inamdars, who got lands in lieu of service to the State.

Urdhelis[3] :

The last description of tenure is that of the Urdhelis or Uparis to whom the land was either leased on Ukti i.i. oral agreement or without any agreement, who had no rights as to proprictors who went from place to place in search of work. Sometime, the farmer did not allow them to remain at the same place for many years together for they would asked for the right. As there was a deficiency of adequate labour, the cultivator seems to attract them by confering on them more and more attractive terms. So we can just imagine that though Urdhelis were tenants at will, they did not often change t their fields because both the farmers or the landlords and the labourers were dependents on each other in those days. It was not customary to remove them from their jobs without any severe crime. They had their half share in the yield and hence they were called Urdhelis. We come across several ~~so~~ sources that these Urdhelis, dupatekaris and tipatekaries had no right on the land although they served there for years together viz. in the Registers of the Pahanis (survey) at different times made in the district of Konkan shows that the field belonging to Dharekaries were entered in their won name, where as those belonging to Khots and were tilled by Urdhelis were entered in the names of Khots.[1] This tradition remained the same in the Maratha period and ended when Khots' rights were abolished by the then British Government.

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[1] Choksey, Economic Life in the Bombay Konkan, pp. 33-34.
[2] Ibid.
[3] Ibid., p. 34.

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1. Ibid.